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No. 1318.

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CIVIL ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING.
—UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—Professor HAWKINS, A.M., will commence his COURSES on **WEDNESDAY**, 2nd February, at 6 o'clock, P.M. The subsequent Lectures will be delivered during the months of February, March, April, and May, as follows:—

CIVIL ENGINEERING.—On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. First Division, from 6 to 7 P.M.; Second Division, from a quarter-past 7 to a quarter-past 8 P.M.

SURVEYING.—At times to be fixed at a Meeting of the Class on **TUESDAY**, the 3rd February, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

Tests: For the Class of Engineering, each Division 2l.; for those in one payment, 2l.—Surveying; Students of the Class of Engineering, 2l.; others, 1l.

JOHN HOPKINS, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Arts and of Laws.
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

Jan. 29, 1853.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.
—NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS OF BRITISH SPECIMENS.—MONDAY NEXT (31st inst.) will be the last day for receiving Specimens to entitle Members to participate in the distribution of the Duplicates in February, 1853.

Lists of Desiderata marked on the 3rd edition of the 'London Catalogue of British Plants' must accompany each parcel.

G. E. DENNES, Secretary.

9, Bedford-street, Strand, Jan. 26, 1853.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF MINES and of SCIENCE APPLIED TO THE ARTS.

MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.

Mr. WASHINGTON W. SMYTH, M.A., will commence a Course of Forty Lectures on **MINERALOGY**, on **TUESDAY** NEXT, the 1st of February, at 1 o'clock; to be continued, at the same hour, on every succeeding Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Also, a Course of Thirty-six Lectures upon **MINING**, on **MONDAY**, the 7th of February, at 4 o'clock; to be continued, at the same hour, on every succeeding Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Professor EDWARD FORBES, F.R.S., will commence a Course of Lectures upon **NATURAL HISTORY APPLIED TO GEOLOGY** (Section, **SPECIAL PALEONTOLOGY**), on **FRIDAY**, the 4th of February, at 4 o'clock; to be continued every succeeding Monday and Friday at the same hour.

For further particulars apply to Mr. FRENCHMAN REEKS, Curator of the Museum, Jernyn-street.

H. T. DE LA BECHE, Director.

ELEMENTARY DRAWING FOR FEMALE

CLASSES.—DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL ART.—FEMALE SCHOOL, 37, GOWER-STREET, Bedford-square.

The object of the Institution is to afford to the ladies the opportunity of learning to draw. The Board of Trade have granted the Female School of Art, 37, Gower-street, shall be open on the **EVENINGS OF MONDAY and WEDNESDAY**, from 6 to 8 o'clock.

The fees for attendance are as follows: Entrance Fee, 5s.; Instruction fee, 1s. 6d. for three months; and 10s. for six months.

Forms of Admission and other Information may be obtained at 37, Gower-street, and Marlborough House, between the hours of 10 and 4.

W. R. DEVERELL, Secretary.

Marlborough House, Jan. 15, 1853.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CIRENCESTER.

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Principal:—Rev. J. S. HAYGARTH, M.A.

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Veterinary Medicine:—T. Brown, M.R.C.V.S.
Surveying, Civil Engineering and Mathematics:—W. Sowerby, A.L.C.E.

Manager of Farm:—H. Valentine.
Assistant to Chemical Professor:—A. Williams, M.R.C.S.

The next SESSION will OPEN on Friday, February 4th, and the Lectures begin on the following Tuesday.

Students are admitted either as Boarders or as Out-students. The annual fees for Boarders vary from 45 to 50 guineas, according to age and other circumstances. The fee for Out-students is 40l. per annum. The College Course of Lectures and Practical Instruction is complete in one twelvemonth, though for younger students a longer time is recommended. There is a department for general as well as for agricultural education. Prospectuses and information can be had on application to the Principal.

TWO PUPILS can at present be received at the

RECTOR, WEST LISLEY, Berks. to PREPARE FOR MATRICULATION at either University. Terms, 150 Guineas, under the age of 17. 200 Guineas above that age. Address the Rev. W. EDLIS, West Lisle, Newbury.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1853.

REVIEWS

Stones of Various Colours: a Holiday Gift
—[Bunte Steine, &c.]. By Adalbert Stifter.
2 vols. Pesth, Heckenast; London, Williams & Norgate.

THE advent of a new work by an approved hand is always a kind of festival to friends and admirers:—and the 'Studies' must have taught many to accept a novelty from Stifter's pen, under whatever title, as a "holiday present." The gift on this occasion is modestly tendered to the young; but will be welcome to older readers in whom years have not chilled the warmth of home feeling, or closed the sense against natural objects. That the genius of Stifter is well adapted for juvenile tales, will be apparent to all who are familiar with his 'Studies.' The delicacy with which he handles the smallest details, while so choosing and placing them as to produce the liveliest effect, the artless thread on which his incidents are hung, the tone of feeling—always pure, kindly and generous,—and a certain air of fancy and tenderness that pervades the whole,—all these are sure to win their way to opening minds. But in more advanced stages of life, where Time has not stolen all the gifts of youth, there will be many thoughtful sharers in the same enjoyment:—and it must be counted a merit in Stifter, that the composition which gives unconscious pleasure to those who only feel, will find a considerate approval from not a few who can judge. In this respect, his allegiance to Nature is rewarded by a privilege of her own:—as her flowers and stars bring delight and wonder alike to the child and to the philosopher.

Within a certain range of subjects, indeed, where invention rather plays than soars, without venturing into the tragic sphere of Passion and Destiny,—a good work of imagination is apt for every age; and the reason why there are so few which are the common property of all, is, mainly, that men of genius have rarely thought of the young,—and works like 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Gulliver,' the 'Arabian Nights,' and the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' have fallen by natural attraction rather than by the author's purpose into hands for which they were not originally designed. The activity of mature thought, demanding variety and depth, and fed by experience and speculation, craves a wider field than is dreamed of in early life:—but within the region suited to the latter, the ground is common to both; and if they cannot share it equally, it is either because the field itself does not yield its right growth, or because the mature taste which finds its produce insipid has been spoiled by less wholesome indulgences.

An application of this general remark may be made to the volumes now before us. The stories which they contain will hardly be more welcome to the young than acceptable to adults of the healthier sort. The pleasure given to each respectively may differ in kind; the eye of one will admire felicitous art and genial observation, where the other is absorbed by an interest too eager to ask the secret of its attraction. In moments of suspense and pathos, both will obey the same influence; while a common emotion replies to those "touches of Nature" that "make the whole world kin."

Of the six stories that form this mosaic of "coloured stones," the first only is decidedly in the tone of a narrative for the young. In the others, only two have even infant figures in the foreground:—the remaining three being occupied with the characters and fortunes of grown

persons. The treatment of all is in Stifter's usual manner; the simplicity and circumstantial minuteness of which has been described in our several notices of his 'Studies.' Here, too, the ruling motives are nearly as before:—home affections and harmless caprices of character being the subjects of interest in the former as well as in this collection. To the latter, however, a singleness of plan, which contains no more than one chief incident, or follows a particular figure without interruption through certain stages, gives a certain advantage over the former in point of poetic completeness:—most of the earlier stories having been chargeable with holding out promises of a kind of interest at the outset which were disappointed by a certain abruptness in the close. Here, there is no such fault:—the simple design being uniformly completed, and opened with such introductions only as serve to bring the subject thoroughly forward. The fanciful titles of the several sketches the author explains by an allusion to the days of his own boyhood; when he loved to collect and arrange at home the pebbles and other shining minerals that lay in the fields or were found in by-places of woodland. Such are these,—many-coloured, belonging to the soil of a remote and picturesque region, and of a kind that common eyes might disregard as worthless; but here so polished and arranged by an artist, that they glitter almost like gems—some with a cheerful lustre, some with a kind of doubtful reflection. With one exception—where the scene is Vienna,—they are taken from country life in places which Stifter has already made known to his readers:—either in the uplands that skirt the Böhmerwald, or among the Alpine tracts of South Austria. The various looks of nature and the ways of life in these unfrequented spots are again brought freshly before the eye; which recognizes a familiar scene while observing ever new features untouched by former sketches. The accidents of climate and soil have their part in each story; and they are described with a graphic effect that can be given only by a poet's eye familiar with the scene, directing a hand remarkable for its skill in painting.

Two of the subjects are less attractive than the rest. One of these is in the form of a story told to the author in his childhood; relating how during a plague that once visited the land, a boy, whose parents sought safety in the upper woods and died there, found a girl, astray and orphan like himself,—succoured, and brought her home when the pestilence was over. The introduction is pretty, and some forest scenes are pleasing,—but the tone is too much that of a nursery tale. The Vienna story, describing the dim tragic results in a self-indulgent nature of a perverse resolution prompted by injury and grief, contains some exquisite details, and produces moments of ominous suspense; but the intervening facts are left dark at the close, and the final impression is painful. The other four stories are each in their several ways charming. Of these, the slightest is an incident from the period of the last French invasion; in which the inhabitants of an old moated chateau in the north—some of them eccentric, but all likeable—are startled by the trail of war passing through their solitude,—but it leaves behind the gleam of a softer influence, which afterwards bears pleasant fruit. A night-surprise, and the effects of the subsequent skirmish near the castle on its imprisoned inmates, are delineated with eminent success. Next in merit is the sketch of a starved country priest, buried in a stony wilderness:—the story of whose youth, of the endurance of his later calling, and of the innocent but quite eccentric piety of the design to which his self-imposed privations are devoted,—make an admirable

portrait; a living likeness of one of those simple and loveable oddities of which Stifter is peculiarly fond. The naked solemnity of the limestone desert is impressively depicted; and in one of the violent thunder-storms to which it is liable an episode of striking effect seems to point the story. The narrator is employed in surveying the district; and has become familiar there with the old parson, who loves to ramble among its barrens,—termed "the stones," or the "Kar-stones."

One day the heat in "the Stones" was excessive. The sun, indeed, had not shone fairly out all the day; but still it so far pierced through the hazy veil which covered the whole sky, that you could always see its pallid disc; and over all the face of the stony land there brooded an indistinct light which cast no shadows; while the leaves of the few plants that grew here and there hung down drooping. For although scarcely half the sunlight made its way through the nebulous curtain hung all round the dome overhead, the heat was intense, as if there were three tropical suns in a cloudless air, and all three flaming down at once. We were sorely overcome by it; so that soon after two o'clock, I sent my assistants home. For my own part, I took my seat under a pent-house of rock, which formed a kind of cavern, the interior of which was sensibly cooler than the open air without. Here I ate my dinner, drank my cooled wine, and afterwards read. As evening came on, the layer of clouds was not scattered, as it usually is at the close of such days, nor did it either grow more compact; but lay all over the heavens, just as it had done throughout the day. So I stayed in the cave until it grew later; for, as there had been no change in the veiled covering of the sky, the heat, too, had scarcely grown less, and there was no sign of the dew coming at nightfall. As I was walking on very slowly among the hillocks, I saw the Parson coming towards me over the slope of sand, and looking intently at the sky. We met and exchanged greetings. * * After a while, he said, "You are now too late to get back to the *Hochstrasse* (the inn so called) this evening."—"How so?" I asked.—"Because a storm will be breaking out presently."—I looked upwards. The bed of clouds had grown somewhat more dense, and a strange kind of lead-coloured lustre lay on all the stony flats in sight.

After some dispute, the surveyor decides on going back with the parson till their ways part,—and if things do not then look better, he will accept his offer of a shelter for the night.—

This being agreed on, we continued our walk; going very slowly, partly because of the heat, partly because it had become our habit to saunter thus while together. Suddenly there flashed round us a faint gleam, under which the faces of the crags reddened. This was the first lightning; but it was a mute flash; no thunder followed it. We went onwards. After a while, there came many other flashes in succession, and as it was now become pretty dusk, while the layer of cloud further damped what light was left, the limestone masses at every flash stood out in a rose-red glow. When we came to the place where our roads parted, the Parson stopped, and stood looking at me. I confessed that a storm was coming; and said I would go with him to the parsonage. So we turned down the road to the *Kar*, and over the easy slope of stone, to the fields at the bottom. On reaching the house we sat down for awhile on the wooden bench outside. The storm was now distinctly gathered; and stood in the heavens like a dusky wall. Before long there were shred off from the uniform dark-coloured ridge of thunder cloud fringes of white running mist, which skirted the lower line of the mass with long turgid-looking stripes. The storm, therefore, had already burst out yonder; while around us not a blade of grass, not a leaf stirred. During thunderstorms these flying inflated streaks of vapour are often threatening signs, always announcing violent bursts of wind, and not unfrequently hail and water-spouts. Thunder was now distinctly audible after the flashes. At length we went into the house. * * We both took our places at the table and sat waiting for the storm. It now seemed to be close at hand. When the Parson brought in

the candle, the scanty twilight which had still been visible through the windows, disappeared: the windows seemed like slabs of black, and the night had utterly closed upon us. The flashes were more piercing, and at every gleam, in spite of the candle, lit up the darkest corner of the room. The thunder grew more heavy and instant. Thus it went on for awhile. At last came the first stroke of the storm blast. The tree that stood in front of the house shivered slightly for a moment, as if struck by a slight interrupted gust of air, and was still again. In a short while, the same shudder came again; but it was longer and deeper. After a brief pause, there followed a vehement blow; all the leaves rustled, and to judge from the sound of the stroke, as we heard it within doors, the boughs, also, must have trembled; from this moment the sound went on without ceasing. The tree near the house, the hedges around it, and all the bushes and branches within reach began in one mingled roar, which alternately sank and swelled. Amidst the noise, the thunder rattled: ever faster and sharper. Still the storm was not yet fairly upon us. There was still an interval between the flash and the peal, and the lightnings, keen as they were, were not yet forked, but merely a general broad flame of light. At length the first drops struck the windows. They struck the glass sharply and separately, but were soon joined by companions; and in a few minutes the rain gushed out in a deluge. It kept increasing, both rushing and darting at once, and at length rose to such a pitch that it seemed as though mere unbroken masses of water were cast down upon the house, which groaned under the burden; and inside we heard it creaking and grating. The rolling of the thunder was scarcely audible for the rushing of the water,—the rushing of the water itself was a second thunder. At last the tempest was right overhead. The flashes darted down like strings of fire; and the lightnings were instantly and hoarsely followed by thunder claps, which now mastered all the other din, and in their last deep rolls and reverberations made the casement-glass shiver and jingle. I was now glad that I had taken the Parson's advice. Such a tempest I had never experienced until now. The Parson sat calmly at his little table, with the light of the candle shining on his figure. At last there came a clap that seemed as if it would heave the whole house from its foundations, and throw it bodily down,—and in the next instant another. Then, for half a breathing space, there was a pause, as often happens in such phenomena; the rain stopped convulsively for an instant, as if frightened; even the wind held back. But all was soon as before,—still, the main force was now broken, and the violence was more uniform. By degrees the storm grew less fierce, the blast was now more like a steady gale, the rain weaker, the flashes grew paler, and the dulled roll of the thunder seemed as if passing away towards the borders.

In the story entitled 'Mica' (*Katzensilber*) some fresh pictures of mountain forest scenery, and old-fashioned domestic character, enlivened by groups of younger life, and crossed by sudden incidents of terror, are moving round a charming figure, half gipsy, half wood-elf,—a little brown maiden, hiding alone in the hills, who runs through the tale, an object of ever-growing attachment and curiosity; and after twice acting as guardian angel in moments of danger, gradually ripening, and losing her strangeness as a cherished inmate of the family whose children were her first human playmates, suddenly and for ever disappears—leaving behind nothing but grateful recollections,—and that kind of longing mystery which is the true magic of a winter's tale. Of all the stories this perhaps is the choicest as a work of art: but it is of all the least fit for extract. The progress of the interest, its mystery and its tenderness, and the nice skill with which all that seems strangest in the incidents is made to look natural; as well as the gradations that conduct us to the unexpected paths of the close,—lie in a series of touches each so slight and seemingly artless that it would be impossible to transfer their effect but by transcribing the whole. Stifter's way of treating

the persons of his stories is always more or less of this kind: but in the present case, where a mystery gradually spreads over the picture, it would be in vain to give any detached feature so as to preserve the peculiar charm that floats like a vapour over the whole.

The last tale to be mentioned, 'Rock Crystal,' if not so original as 'Mica,' is the most entire in its plan of any in the series. The development of the central subject—the danger of a brother and sister, benighted in a snow-fall among the highlands, is prepared with the happiest skill,—and the crisis excites a strong emotion. It is a complete and moving little poem:—in some respects the most complete that Stifter has given us—excepting only 'The Grandfather's Portfolio.' Here all is on a smaller scale,—but every part is appropriate and necessary. First, there is a lively picture of the mountain region, with its secluded village, strange to all beyond its own little valley, nestling under a snow-covered Alp. Then come the villagers, drawn to the life, with their simple ways and local jealousies, to which the catastrophe of the tale is partly due. Among these is the father of the little pair—once a bold cragsman, now head shoemaker of the hamlet: a person of consequence, who boldly goes beyond the village bounds and brings home a beauty from the other side of the ridge—a "stranger" according to the notions of the place, although the distance over the neck of the hill is not more than a child can go over and back in a day. Thus, little intercourse takes place between the families until the children grow old enough to visit their grandfather's house in the "foreign" Millsdorf. Soon, they are able to find their way to and fro alone:—and it is thus, in returning on a Christmas Eve, that they are caught in the fall of snow; miss the crossing upon the ridge, and wander all up the mountain to the glacier, where after crouching all night in a cave, they are rescued on the morrow by the villagers. From this time forth the mother and children cease to be regarded as "strangers": they are free of the village whose men have brought them out of the shadow of death on the Alp. This gives a nice completion to the story, over and above the happy end of its suspense. But if the plan is so far good, it is to the filling-up of the picture that the highest praise is due. The local character of the ground, the variety of natural and speaking traits all looking to the principal event; the description of the risk, sustained with ever-growing suspense; the pretty figures of the brother and sister amidst the wild snow-scene; the passion of the parents in the joy of their rescue,—all are drawn with touches so simple, and free from seeming effort, that their force is betrayed only by the emotion which gradually takes hold of the reader. It would be unjust to Stifter to offer a fragment as a specimen of this kind of work. The subjoined passage from the final scene is given merely to show what has been remarked on a former occasion—his peculiar reserve in critical moments.

After daylight, the children, half frozen, creep out of the cave; but find no way out of the waste. They climb and wander hither and thither in vain.—

Their footprints of the day before had been covered by the falling snow. Nor could they by looking out guess in what direction the "neck" lay, for all directions were the same,—snow, nothing but snow. But they kept going on, still fancying they would reach it at last. They edged away from the abrupt precipices, and avoided clambering up the steeper heights. To-day, they often stood still to listen; but, as on the night before, they could hear nothing—not the slightest sound. Nothing could be seen but the snow,—the shining white snow, out of which the black "horns" (*peaks*) and the black ribs of crag rose up here and there. At last, the boy thought he

beheld, on a far away slope of snow-field, something like a dancing fire. Now it started up, now it dived down; now they could see it, now they lost sight of it. They stood still, and looked steadily in that direction. * * After a while, they were aware of something in the still blue air, like the long sustained tone of a herdsman's horn. As if by instinct, the children both cried out in a short time. They again heard the same tone; and cried again, and remained standing on the spot. The fire, too, came nearer; * * and it was no fire, but a red flag, which some one was waving. Now, the cattle-horn sounded nearer, and the children answered it. * * Down the slope, they saw a number of men coming with poles, and the flag-borne amidst them. As they drew nearer, they saw well-known faces. It was Philip the Herd, who had the horn, and his two sons. Then there was the young hunter from the "Ashes," and many people of Gschaid. "God be praised," cried Philip; "there you are, after all; the whole mountain is full of people. Let one run straight down to the hut on the Sider-Alp and ring the bell, so that the others may hear that we have found them; and one of you must go on the Krestein, and there plant the flag, to be seen in the valley; and fire off the mortar so that those who are searching in the Millsdorf Wood may know it, and those in Gschaid fire the beacons and let the smoke rise in the air; and so bring all that are on the mountain down to the Sider-Alp. Here's a proper Christmas Day!"

Meanwhile, the party descend towards the hut on the Sider-Alp—where the mother is waiting. Groups of the scattered searchers are drawing thither too.—

The children now ran forward with the rest to see who these were. It was the shoemaker, sometime the Alpine hunter, with his Alpine stock and cramp irons—accompanied by friends and comrades! "Sebastian! there they are!" cried his wife. But he was mute; he trembled and ran towards them. Then his lips moved as if he would say something, but he said nothing—snatched the children into his arms, and held them long. Then he turned to his wife, embraced her, and cried out; "Sanna! Sanna!" After a while, he took up his hat, which had fallen on the snow, went up to the men and meant to speak to them. But he said no more than, "Neighbours, friends, I thank you!"

On this occasion, for the first time, Stifter opens his work with a preface. It is a modest apology for his manner of writing, which it seems has found ungenial critics in his own land:—and it is a good answer to all such. While unaffectedly declining the pretension of attempting great things, the writer speaks his mind as to what really constitutes greatness in visible objects and unseen influences, with both originality of thought and simple dignity of tone. This utterance of his poetic creed, if it do not touch the stupid, may be well received by more genial minds;—especially by those who hope for something further yet from Stifter's progress:—as it shows that the natural gifts which they have appreciated in him are under the guidance of a mind neither inconsiderate nor strange to a generous ambition.

Walks after Wild Flowers; or, the Botany of the Bohereens. By Richard Dowden (Richard). Van Voorst.

Richard Dowden is known to many of our readers as one of the heroes in Father Prout's memorable annals of the city of Cork; and whether discussing whisky toddy with the Father, or walking after wild flowers in the Bohereens, he is the same genial and agreeable companion. A season of illness led him to seek in his knowledge of the wild plants of his native country recreation and health. The plan of the book before us is to give, not a list of all the plants collected in a certain neighbourhood, but full-length written portraits of the more prominent and better-known denizens of the field and forest. These descriptions will apply almost as well to the botany of the whole

country as to that of Cork:—for, the plants that have most interest are those which are the most widely diffused.

The present volume, we find, does not exhaust the botany of the Bohereens,—but includes only three of the families of Exogenous plants—the Crowfoot tribe, the Poppy tribe, and the Cross-works (Cruciferae). The amount of information displayed by the author is extensive,—and is conveyed in such a style that it may be read with interest at the fire-side. We select a passage or two at random.—

“Our next genus of native plant is *Helleborus*; its name is constructed from the Greek ‘*elein*,’ to injure, and ‘*bora*,’ food, indicating its poisonous nature. The meaning of *viridis*, the second part of the name of our species, is obvious; it is all green, even the blossoms, which are of a yellowish-green colour. It is a rare discovery in Ireland for the amateur botanist. The Flora of our country records that ‘it is found in two places near Middleton, which are, perhaps, the only stations in Ireland where it exists in a truly wild state.’ The English Flora contains a second species of this genus, which is not a wild native of Ireland, although it is found very generally in gardens. It has been confounded with our plant by the old botanists, because it has similar poisonous properties; these qualities we will examine generally, without making a minute botanical distinction between the plants. They have both been called *veratrum*; now the *Veratrum*, or white hellebore of modern pharmacologists, is found in a totally different tribe of plants, and is nearly allied to the Squill, so well known, for its useful nauseating power, as a cure for coughs. We cannot properly notice the alkaline principle ‘*veratrin*’ here, because it has not been found in hellebore, although the action of it on the system is very similar. The Christmas-rose, called from the colour of its roots, black hellebore, has been chemically examined; its power lies chiefly in an acrid volatile oil, and the constitution of our plant may be generally indicated by attending to that of its near neighbour. The hellebores afforded the ancient pharmacists quite a world to revel in; first, the names were a pleasure to them; *ver-atrum*, ‘the green-black,’ ‘*Flore viridi, radix niger*.’ Burton, in his ‘*Anatomy of Melancholy*,’ expatiates extensively on it as one of the potential *melanagoga*, or ‘go-your-way-melancholy’ plants; he says it scattereth black choler, and is a renowned plant, which all antiquity so much used and admired: even the first discoverer of it, we are told by Pliny, had ‘black’ in his name, *Melam-podius*, an old Greek Blackfoot. This gentleman was a Bucolic, and having observed that some mad goats of his eat hellebore, and walked staidly after, he gave it to two rather wildish daughters of a king in Arcadia, and sobered them for ever. It would be impossible to tell all the vagaries which this plant has cured; beginning with Hercules and coming down to dancing Dutch wives and Spanish Grandees, performing undignified volas. One celebrated physician administered it, he says, six hundred times without offence, and yet, though flattered as a ‘*suave medicamentum*, an *ease*’ that may be given to weaklings, it is far better to be cautious of it; even in the hands of a mediciner it is of very uncertain effect, its degree of acridity being much altered by heat, dryness, and other casualties; and as a judicious writer remarks, ‘it is used by venturesome quacks in decoction and coarse powder, to kill worms in the belly, which it never faileth to do; where it killeth not the patient it would certainly kill the worms, but the worst of it is, it will sometimes do both.’ The desperate hazard of such drugs being ignorantly employed is evident from this notice of its effects, even where administered in quantities not fatal.”

Our next quotation shall be about a well-known plant, the *Water-cress*.—

“*Nasturtium officinale* is the first species; it got its place among *officinal*, or shop herbs, from its undoubted wholesome properties. In times not very remote animal food was ‘*saved*,’ as the process too flatteringly used to be called, in October. Salted intensely, and much of its nourishing juices destroyed, this hard, indigestible, fiery stuff was eaten during all the time up to the following April or May, and the consequence was, that cutaneous eruptions often

relieved while they gave warning of a disordered state in the stomachs and the blood of thousands of all ranks, nay, even of the opulent, because their appetites were more gratified in quantity than by quality. This made fresh vegetable food of great consequence in spring and early summer; and much edible herbage bore the general name of salads; thus we find their alterative value recited by Chaucer—

After that they went about
Gathering pleasant salades, which they made etc
For to refreche all grete, unkindely hete.
This ‘hete’ might have been merely ‘hotnesse,’ but a general cool state of body and blood would prevent its unpleasant recurrence. Our popular street-cry, announcing this vegetable for sale, has been left us in rhyme by Swift—

Fine spring-water grass, fit for lad or lass,
using this familiar name with approbation, though our ancient Irish botanist, Caleb Threlkeld, complains of its being ‘called about the streets by the *abusiv* name of water-grass, while, as he says, noble matrons make a soup of it, called *lenten-pottage*, along with alexanders and nettles.’ Pope, in Homer, tells us of a very abstinent royal fare similarly compounded, viz.:—

His court with nettles and with cresses stor’d,
With soups unbought, and salads blest his board.
Johnson derives the word ‘*water-cress*’ from the Latin *creta*, to increase, because of the rapid growth the plant makes. In spring its vigorous stems and green and violet-brown leaves give indication of rapid vegetation, and also after being cut down for summer use, a new crop appears in autumn, being in Shakespeare’s words, ‘yet cressive in his faculty;’ but our title may possibly be adopted from the form of the cruciate white flowers, and ‘*water-cress*’ is not inappropriate to the croissette-flowers, which cresting the green corymbs in spring, become afterward elevated on bold well-divided spikes, by the expanding light and heat of the summer. It is easier for young field-botanists to have this plant pointed out to them, than to convey to them its distinctions by minute descriptions, which, indeed, except by practical botanists, are easily forgotten. Rural rambles often take bread to the brook, pick their fresh water-grass, and there eat it, one warning is consequently here necessary; the leaflets of the cress are extended into a lengthened oval form, when growing in very quickly-running streamlets, and as they then resemble some of the leaves of the poisonous Umbellate plants, it is well to be cautious of eating what is deleterious—or, of being alarmed without cause, where what is eaten is wholesome. A thrifty mother, who could not botanize the cress, or did not know its modifications, under circumstances, lost her labour when she gave an emetic to her five children, who had eaten a feast no more hurtful than the long-leaved water-cress. This plant is a famous anti-scorbutic; its expressed juice has had great repute; but its corrective powers are more manifested when it makes a part of diet, than as a ‘*diet-drink*,’ its good effect on the cuticle has been partly attributed to its containing sulphur, but I have not found the notes of its analysis.”

We hope, that Mr. Dowden will be encouraged to continue his rambles amongst wild flowers,—as we are convinced that companionship like his is the best possible incentive to the study of natural history.—The present work is adorned with a frontispiece of small flowers belonging to the order Ranunculaceæ, which we can scarcely say we think an ornament.

Kaffraria, and its Inhabitants. By the Rev. Francis Fleming. Smith, Elder & Co.

Mr. Francis Fleming is one of the army chaplains at King William’s Town, in British Kaffraria. He has lived in that country about three years,—and has had fair opportunities of studying not only the manners of the people, but the productions of nature in Southern Africa. His notes, as he informs us in the preface, have all been made on the spot, from personal observation; and for this reason, though the information which he affords is not very abundant, or all of it very new,—yet it has the value of authentic personal knowledge. Two-thirds at least of the volume are occupied with the natural history of the

Cape colonies. Mr. Fleming is himself a botanist,—and he never omits a fair opportunity for setting out on a plant-finding excursion. He does not excel in describing what he has seen or done,—nevertheless, there is in his book the interest created by any genuine narrative. The chaplain sometimes peeps out from beneath the naturalist’s garb,—but never offensively. At other times the dignities and reserves of the “order” are pleasantly forgotten. We give an amusing instance, put on record with great simplicity. Mr. Fleming has just been speaking of the Kafir wolf and jackal:—he proceeds as follows.—

“We have also mentioned, together with these, the baboon, a large misshapen creature, too well known to need description here, but, like the last two, still very numerous in Kaffraria. They are usually found in herds or troops together, varying in size and number, and, if attacked or molested, are very savage. A strange rencontre with one of these troops once occurred to the author. Whilst on an excursion to Perrie bush, about sixteen miles from King William’s Town, he started from the village alone, for the purpose of visiting the saw-pits, which were about a mile or more towards the midst of the forest. Having reached these, and transacted the business in hand, he was informed of a small rivulet, at a little distance further on among the woods, forming some very picturesque cascades, and the banks of which were covered with a beautiful and rare kind of flower. He therefore started alone upon a ramble in search of it, and succeeded at length, after some little difficulty, in making it out. Seduced by the wild loveliness of the scene, he advanced further on, at the other side of the stream, along what is called a Kafir path; but soon getting off this, he became entangled in the bush and underwood. The foliage overhead being so thick as to exclude the sun, a small pocket-compass was the only safe guide; and, whilst trying to adjust and steady this, he was saluted by a volley of broken sticks and berries from overhead. Never dreaming of such an attack, and not being able to see the slightest vestige of animals near, he still continued his occupation, when a second similar salute made him gladly pocket the compass, and make towards the low ground in hopes of finding the stream. This he soon reached, and, when on its bank, more easily recovered the lost path. During his perplexity, however, the chattering overhead soon betrayed the assailants to be a large herd of baboons, whom he now thought, when clear of the thicket, he might tease in his turn. Accordingly he commenced throwing stones at such as were within reach: when, instead of taking to flight, (as he expected they would,) to his great consternation he beheld, from every tree near him, five or ten or the great mis-shaped creatures, swinging from branch to branch, and making towards himself and the ground. Having no gun and no whip with him, he now thought it full time to decamp, which he immediately did, running faster, probably, than ever he did before or since, and pursued at full cry (if cry the dreadful noise could be termed), by fifty or sixty ugly awkward wretches, that seemed to mock at the courage of their adversary, and certainly despised his ill-judged plan of attack and defence. At the saw-pits, however, they sounded the halt, fearing that he would find a reinforcement there among the sawyers. But this, to his great dismay, was not forthcoming, as they had gone home to the village for dinner. He, therefore, tried to increase his speed, and finally succeeded in getting well away from them and back to Perrie, very glad indeed to escape so easily; and his face and boots telling rather plainly there, whether he had been following after the beautiful, or the baboons after him.”

On the politics of Kaffraria Mr. Fleming broaches no extreme views. He is moderate in opinion,—and feels inclined to trust more to moral than to carnal weapons for the coercion of the natives and their gradual civilization. If he overrates the influence of the missionaries, and exaggerates their importance as a part of the State machinery,—this is the almost natural incident of his own position. But his volume is able and temperate,—and deserves a careful

consideration from those who feel an interest in our South African settlements.

Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi Valley: with the original Narratives of Marquette, Allouez, Membré, Hennepin, and Anastase Douay. By John Gilmary Shea, with a Fac-simile of the newly-discovered Map of Marquette. New York, Redfield; London, Low & Co.

IN this volume we have another instance of the zeal and assiduity with which American authors are pursuing the task of examining and illustrating the early history and antiquities of their country. Few more interesting subjects could be selected by an American for this species of research than the history of the discovery and first explorations of the Mississippi:—that great river, the existence of which constitutes so remarkable a geographical feature of the United States,—and along whose banks, now studded with populous communities and with all the accompaniments of civilization, there roamed but a few ages ago tribes of wandering Indians.—The compiler of the present book has done his work well. It will be found interesting not only to Americans—to whose archaeological literature it is a contribution,—but also to those among ourselves who like stories of travel and adventure. The greater part of the volume consists of the following original narratives, edited from the manuscripts:—a "Relation of the Voyages and Discoveries of Father James Marquette, of the Society of Jesus, in 1673 and the following years;" a "Narrative of a Voyage made to the Illinois, by Father Claude Allouez, in 1676;" "Father Le Clercq's Narrative of the Chevalier De La Salle's first attempt to explore the Mississippi in 1680;" a "Narrative of a Voyage to the Upper Mississippi, by Father Louis Hennepin, in 1680;" a "Narrative of the Adventures of La Salle's party in Illinois, from February 1680 to June 1681, by Father Zenobius Membré;" a "Narrative of La Salle's Voyage down the Mississippi in 1682, by the same Father Membré;" a "Narrative of La Salle's attempt to reach the Mississippi by sea in 1684, by Father Le Clercq;" and a "Narrative of La Salle's attempt to ascend the Mississippi in 1687, by Father Anastase Douay." Mr. Shea's own share of the volume, in addition to the labour of editing these narratives, consists of biographical sketches of the various Jesuit Fathers above named—the sketch of Father Marquette extending to about thirty pages,—and a preliminary chapter giving a general account of the history of the discovery of the Mississippi. Mr. Shea writes clearly, graphically, and with considerable eloquence; and, from various allusions in the course of the volume, we gather, that his sympathy with the labours and sufferings of the Jesuit missionaries and explorers is not merely a sympathy of a literary character, but also that of a fellow-religionist:—a circumstance which contributes, at least, to give to his work spirit and animation.

From Mr. Shea's preliminary "History of the Discovery of the Mississippi River" we extract the following,—interesting as an account of the first vague glimpses which Europeans had of the existence of this vast stream, and of the first shadowy vision which tradition has handed down of a European launching his skiff on those once solitary waters now furrowed by a thousand steamers.

"On glancing at a map of America, we are at once struck by the mighty river Mississippi, which, with its countless branches, gathers the waters of an immense valley, and rolls its accumulated floods to the Gulf of Mexico, affording a line of uninterrupted communication for thousands of miles, which has in our day peopled its banks with flourishing towns and

cities. So large a stream, so important a means of entering the heart of the continent, could not, it would be supposed, long remain unknown,—or, known, remain unappreciated: yet so, in fact, it was. Columbus himself entered the Gulf of Mexico, but the southern coast only was explored by the discoverer of the New World. By whom the northern shore was first explored we do not know; but it is laid down with considerable accuracy in an edition of Ptolemy printed at Venice in 1513. This map is the more remarkable as the delta of a river corresponding to the Mississippi is traced upon it more distinctly than in the maps of the next century. Several adventurers now sailed along the northern or Florida shore, till it was completely examined by Garay, in 1518. Three years later, a map was drawn up by the arbitrator appointed to decide between the claims of rival discoverers, and on it we find the Mississippi again traced on the part assigned as peculiarly Garay's, and on it the name it subsequently bore, Rio del Espiritu Santo, or River of the Holy Ghost. Several expeditions were now fitted out to explore and reduce the realms of Florida. Brilliant, daring, and adventurous attempts they were, and give that hue of chivalry which almost makes us forget the crimes which marked it—crimes, magnified and distorted indeed by foreign writers, but still coolly and dispassionately examined crimes that we must condemn. * * Leon, Cordova, and Ayllon, had successively found death on the shores of Florida; but the spirit of the age was not damped: in 1528, Pamphilus de Narvaez undertook to conquer and colonize the whole northern coast of the gulf. He landed, and after long and fruitless marches, returned to the coast, and in wretched boats endeavoured to reach Tampico. Almost all perished: storms, disease, and famine swept them away, and the coast was whitened with their bleaching bones. A few with Cabeza de Vaca were thrown on an island on the coast of Mississippi. After four years' slavery, De Vaca escaped and struck inland with four companions. Taken for supernatural beings, they became the medicine-men of the tribes through which they passed, and, with as little difficulty as the Indian jugglers, established their reputation. With lives thus guarded by superstitious awe, they rambled across to the Gulf of California, traversing the bison-plains and the adobe towns of the half-civilized natives of New Mexico, perched on their rocky heights. De Vaca is the first known to have traversed our territory from sea to sea. In this long wandering, he must have reached and crossed the Mississippi; but we in vain examine his narrative for something to distinguish it from any other large river that he met. He remains then in history, in a distinct twilight, as the first European known to have stood on the banks of the Mississippi, and to have launched his boat upon its waters; but his 'shipwrecks' shed no new light on its history."

Various subsequent expeditions were made by the Spaniards,—in the course of which a more accurate knowledge was acquired of the Mississippi and its importance; but the work of thoroughly exploring it was left to the French of North America,—and more especially to those French missionaries of the Jesuit order whose wonderful perseverance and zeal in penetrating unknown regions is one of the most astonishing things connected with the history of Jesuitism. Of all these missionaries, Father Marquette holds the first place. He is evidently Mr. Shea's hero; and the narrative of his adventures proves him to have been an extraordinary man. Born in 1637, at Laon, in the Department of Aisne, of one of the first families of the place,—Marquette entered the Society of Jesuits in 1654,—and in 1666 he sailed as a missionary to Canada. He was labouring as a missionary among the Indians of Lapointe, on Lake Superior, when an opportunity occurred of carrying out his long-cherished intention of visiting the nations on the Mississippi. The origin of this enterprise, and the preparation for it, are described by himself in the following simple passage from his narrative.—

"The day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, whom I had always invoked since I

had been in this Ottawa country, to obtain of God the grace to be able to visit the nations on the River Mississippi [this word is explained as a corruption of the Indian *missi*, 'great,' and *sepe*, 'a river']. was identically that on which M. Jolliet arrived with orders of the Comte de Frontenac, our governor, and M. Talon, our intendant, to make this discovery with me. I was the more enraptured at this good news, as I saw my designs on the point of being accomplished, and myself in the happy necessity of exposing my life for the salvation of all these nations, and particularly for the Illinois, who had, when I was at Lapointe du St. Esprit, very earnestly entreated me to carry the word of God to their country. We were not long in preparing our outfit, although we were embarking on a voyage the duration of which we could not foresee. Indian corn, with some dried meat, was our whole stock of provisions. With these we set out in two bark canoes, M. Jolliet, myself, and five men, firmly resolved to do all and suffer all for so glorious an enterprise. It was on the 17th of May, 1673, that we started from the mission of St. Ignatius at Michilimackinac, where I then was. Our joy at being chosen for this expedition roused our courage, and sweetened the labour of rowing from morning to night. As we were going to seek unknown countries, we took all possible precautions, that if our enterprise was hazardous, it should not be foolhardy: for this reason we gathered all possible information from Indians who had frequented those parts, and even from their accounts traced a map of all the new country, marking down the rivers on which we were to sail, the names of the nations and places through which we were to pass, the course of the great river, and what direction we should take when we got to it. Above all, I put our voyage under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Immaculate, promising her that if she did us the grace to discover the great river, I would give it the name of Conception; and that I would also give that name to the first mission which I should establish among these new nations, as I have actually done among the Illinois."

We need not here detail the hardships of the Father in the course of his arduous journey,—nor his efforts to enlighten the nations on his route. Suffice it to say, that he reached the Mississippi,—or, as he named it, the Conception—on the 17th of June. A summary of his farther progress down the river, as described by himself, is given by Mr. Shea as follows.—

"Joy that could find no utterance in words filled the grateful heart of Marquette. The broad river of the Conception, as he named it, now lay before them, stretching away hundreds of miles; to an unknown sea. Soon all was new, mountain and forest had glided away; the islands, with their groves of cotton-wood, become more frequent, and moose and deer browsed on the plains; strange animals were seen traversing the river, and monstrous fish appeared in its waters. But they proceeded on their way amid this solitude, frightful by its utter absence of man. Descending still further, they came to the land of the bison, or pisikion, which, with the turkey, became sole tenants of the wilderness; all other game had disappeared. At last, on the 25th of June, they descried foot-prints on the shore. They now took heart again, and Jolliet and the missionary, leaving their five men in the canoes, followed a little beaten path to discover who the tribe might be. They travelled on in silence almost to the cabin doors, when they halted, and with a loud halloo proclaimed their coming. Three villages lay before them; the first, roused by the cry, poured forth its motley group, which halted at the sight of the new comers, and the well-known dress of the missionary. Old men came slowly on, step by measured step, bearing aloft the all-mysterious calumet. All was silence; they stood at last before the two Europeans, and Marquette asked, 'Who are you?' 'We are Illinois,' was the answer, which dispelled all anxiety from the explorers, and sent a thrill to the heart of Marquette; the Illinois missionary was at last amid the children of that tribe which he had so long, so tenderly yearned to see. After friendly greetings at this town of Pewaria, and the neighbouring one of Moing-wena, they returned to their canoes, escorted by the wondering tribe, who gave their hardy visitants a calumet,

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the safeguard of the West. With renewed courage and lighter hearts, they sailed on, and passing a high rock with strange and monstrous forms depicted on its rugged surface, heard in the distance the roaring of a mighty cataract, and soon beheld Pekitanoui, or the muddy river, as the Algonquins call the Missouri, rushing like some untamed monster into the calm and clear Mississippi, and hurrying in with its muddy waters the trees which it had rooted up in its impetuous course. Already had the missionaries heard of the river running to the western sea to be reached by the branches of the Mississippi, and Marquette, now better informed, fondly hoped to reach it one day by the Missouri. But now their course lay south, and passing a dangerous eddy, the demon of the western Indians, they marked the Waboukigou, or Ohio, the river of the Shawnees, and still holding on their way, came to the warm land of the cane, and the country which the mosquitoes might call their own. While enveloped in their sails as a shelter from them, they came upon a tribe who invited them to the shore. They were wild wanderers, for they had guns bought of Catholic Europeans to the east. Thus far, all had been friendly, and encouraged by this second meeting, they plied their oars anew, and amid groves of cotton-wood on either side, descended to the 33rd degree, where, for the first time, a hostile reception seemed promised by the excited Metichigameas. Too few to resist, their only hope on earth was the mysterious calumet, and in heaven, the protection of Mary, to whom they sent up those fervent prayers, which none but one who has called on her in the hour of need can realize. At last the storm subsided, and they were received in peace; their language formed an obstacle, but an interpreter was found, and after explaining the object of their coming, and announcing the great truths of Christianity, they embarked for Akamseea [Arkansas], a village thirty miles below on the eastern shore. Here they were well received, and learned that the mouth of the river was but ten days' sail from this village; but they heard, too, of nations there trading with Europeans, and of wars between the tribes, and the two explorers spent a night in consultation. The Mississippi, they now saw, emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, between Florida and Tampico, two Spanish points; they might by proceeding fall into their hands. They resolved to return.

Marquette's own map of the country explored is appended to the present volume. What remained to be done in order to complete the exploration of the river to its mouth, was accomplished chiefly by La Salle:—for an account of whose successive expeditions we must refer to the volume itself.—Where the reader will also be interested by the narrative of Father Hennepin; a Jesuit, according to Mr. Shea's account, of quite a different type from Marquette,—being as vain and mendacious as Marquette was modest and true.

Marquette did not long survive his return from the Mississippi. He died on the 18th of May, 1675, almost alone, in a wretched cabin on the banks of Lake Illinois,—where he was pursuing his missionary labours.

The Complete Poetical Works of Lord Byron. 8 vols. Murray.

THIS is at once the most complete, compact, accurate, and beautifully printed edition of Byron that we have yet seen. The whole is in eight pocket volumes. It is quite a little 'Elzevir' edition of a great poet. We direct attention to it, not only because of its accuracy and beauty, but from its remarkable cheapness. How few people are judges of editions,—how many are taken in by falsely lettered backs of books, and equally deceiving engraved and ordinary title-pages! In an age like this, when book-buyers are rapidly on the increase, when our great hives of manufactures are every day creating a taste for what is good among mechanics and their masters,—it behoves us, in our capacity as guardians of the public in such matters, that the public should be equally alive to what is good

and what is bad in these. It was well remarked by a liberal and tasteful purchaser of the works of English artists now alive, that no person ever became a good collector without going through the unfortunate period of buying what was simply indifferent. As a young purchaser generally becomes a careful collector by experience,—buying for a time at large prices and selling at low—liking, and finding out his mistake—out of pocket in acquiring his experience,—so is it with book-buyers. What wretched editions of great authors are bought by young collectors, ignorant that the best editions may be had nearly at the same price, and sometimes at a lower! It was but the other day that a rich merchant in this great city of London exhibited before us with an air of triumph an edition of Byron in one volume carrying on its red cloth back the attractive title of "Byron's Poetical Works." On looking into the work, we discovered a serious deficiency in the book:—for this so-called edition of "Byron's Poetical Works" did not contain the fourth Canto of 'Childe Harold,'—that is, in Byron's best known poem one out of four cantos was wanting! But, mark the greater importance than at first appears of this deficiency. 'Childe Harold' consists of four unequally sized Cantos. We put it tabularly:—

Canto 1 contains	93	Spenserian stanzas.
" 2 "	98	" "
" 3 "	118	" "
" 4 "	106	" "

In all 495 stanzas.

—So that, in our merchant friend's copy 186 stanzas were wanting out of the 495!

It will be said by many, naturally enough, that this must have been an accident. No such thing. The publisher knew well enough that the fourth Canto of 'Childe Harold' was copyright,—and that he could not therefore reprint it.

The recent Copyright Act was a wise instalment of justice to an English author; and it is incumbent on Englishmen to see that an English author does not lose the full advantage of the few years of copyright which the law assigns to him. Equally, if not more important, is it for us as critics to see that an author is not mutilated to meet the just requirements of copyright,—and that the purchaser is not taken in by a title inconsistent with those requirements. It is true, that Byron's descendants derive no pecuniary advantage from the sale of Byron's works in any shape, complete or incomplete, with or without the fourth Canto,—but equally true is it, that this is because the great poet made over the profit of his works to his publisher for prices which, taken collectively, no poet has ever received before or since.

It has often surprised us that an edition of the British poets has never been undertaken in a shape like the present cheap and beautiful edition of Byron. The so-called collection of our poets published by John Sharpe, and printed by Whittingham, is, it is true, not much dissimilar in appearance to Mr. Murray's Byron volumes,—but it is in every other respect than outward appearance a pitiful edition of the great body of British poets which we possess. Strangely enough, we have never had as yet anything at all approaching a satisfactory edition of our poets. We have had Johnson's, and Bell's, and Cooke's, and Sharpe's small-sized edition,—we have had the one hundred volume edition from the Chiswick press,—we have had the double-columned editions of Chalmers and Anderson,—and we have had the, as yet, imperfect Aldine edition;—but no series has hitherto given evidence that a man of cultivated taste and research directed the whole.

Napoleon the Third. By A. De la Guéronnière. Translated by Lieut.-Col. Charles Gillies. Vizetelly.

M. de la Guéronnière, like most other first-rate French journalists, is an artist in words. His contemporary portraits, published in the *Pays*—while that paper was Republican, and the peculiar organ of M. de Lamartine—are remarkable for their style, their treatment, and their high literary finish. The writing is always forcible, the analysis subtle, the insight wide and deep. The sketches, nevertheless, have the vice of nearly all contemporary portraits,—they are overdrawn—they are too flattering. Of the whole series, as they originally appeared, this vice was most apparent, perhaps, in the figures of Louis Napoleon, the actual possessor of power, and of the Count de Chambord, its probable inheritor. Louis Napoleon was painted in colours so fine and bright, that M. de Lamartine felt himself called on to repudiate publicly all share in and responsibility for such literary fawning:—and the portrait so denounced—retouched and wrought up, as might be expected—is that which M. de la Guéronnière, now an official supporter of the Empire, has here sent forth to the world of English readers. The book, as it now appears, is evidently addressed to the readers of Victor Hugo's impassioned pamphlet.

The shifts to which M. de la Guéronnière is sometimes reduced in order to make the utmost of his theme are amusing. He pushes the good old rule of compensation, by which a woman who is not handsome must be considered clever, and a man who is not brilliant has to be credited with wisdom—to the extreme; for, he finds under each untoward aspect a hidden world of sense and meaning. The silent eloquence of Lord Burleigh, in Sheridan's farce, is nothing beside such a reading of the no-meanings of a face as here follows.—

"What problem is this that presents itself to my pencil? I search for a light upon that face, and I see nothing but shade. On looking more closely at it, my mind is gradually led to recall that face, so dark, so sinister, so passionless and cold, which, in its day, was called 'The Iron Mask.' I have read somewhere in the annals of those times, that the jailors of that mysterious personage had remarked, that a strange phenomenon had exhibited itself in that terrible tragedy. The principle of life was so powerfully condensed beneath that inflexible covering,—so intense a necessity to come to light was manifested, that at certain moments it was revealed even through the polished steel, and animated it, as it might have done the human face. At those times the mask assumed the expression of nature. The veins seemed to palpitate, the lips to move, the eyes to brighten up, the temples to beat. The mask had transformed itself into man. In like manner, this face, in appearance so motionless and insensible, is but the mask of the man within, ardent and powerful. Those eyes are dull, but as profound as the thought in which they dive, and which rises at times in their orbits, as the flame rises from the hearth whence it derives its fire. That brow is gloomy as fate, but as expansive as creative genius. Those lips are colourless, but full of expression; delicately turned; severed—scarcely sufficiently parting, and open just to allow the curt and precise expression of a will emanating from deep reflection, and inexorably resolved. That voice is indolent and drawing, but self-reliant; and the indifference which shows itself is but the excess of that confidence. Courage concealed by timidity,—resolution disguised by gentleness,—inflexibility softened by mildness,—policy hidden by good nature,—life under marble,—fire under ashes: in a word, a something partaking of Augustus and of Titus, but with the face of Werther,—that type of German sentimentality. Such does Louis Napoleon Bonaparte appear."

To such a power of reading the heart of all mysteries nothing is impossible,—and the read-

ing may of course be exactly that which at the moment the reader happens to like. Louis Napoleon is represented as inscrutable,—yet we are invited to see him through and through. M. de la Guéronnière has penetrated the impenetrable. No other man can interpret a single thought under that "dark brow," in those "dull eyes,"—but the official editor of the *Pays* scans their wearer as minutely as an insect is examined under the microscope. As another amusing illustration of the shifts to which our apologist is reduced, we quote his reasoning on the affairs of Strasbourg and Boulogne.—

"Strasbourg and Boulogne! Two names that make the hand tremble, and the conscience shudder; two acts that cannot be weighed with equity, and judged with impartiality, save by infallible history. Is it greatness or folly? Is it virtue or crime? Is it self-denial or ambition? Is it heroism or caprice? Is it foresight or madness? Public opinion, the world, law, and eternal rectitude, answer on one side: fortune, destiny, reality, answer on the other. Here is a man who has twice conspired against an established government, and who, after a lapse of four years, has raised the standard of revolt and civil war upon the frontier and shores of his country—this man seeks to become Emperor. He enters on the Continent, he disembarks on the shore as Pretender; he causes treasons and provokes rebellion; he engages in a hopeless struggle, and falls at once by the defenceless state of his own cause. He is insulted—judged—condemned; almost forgotten in America and in the dungeon of Ham. Then, for fifteen years more, he is considered as a maniac rather than a hero. And yet this is the very man who, some years later, becomes first the favourite of the people, and then the chosen of the nation. Scarcely has his name been breathed in public places before it passes from lip to lip, as a dear remembrance, as a hope for the future. A murmur runs along the streets; passes the gates; spreads over the country; it is echoed far and wide among the humble villages of the land. It swells like the waves of the ocean, till it takes the form of a great popular opinion, and speaks by the voice of six millions of votes, given without motive, without calculation, and as if by an irresistible and spontaneous impulse of the nation. 'True 'tis strange—strange 'tis true.' Strasbourg and Boulogne were the causes of the election of 10th December. Had not Louis Napoleon Bonaparte put himself forward as Pretender for the Empire, he would probably never have become President of the French Republic. Is it a matter of doubt? Here is a fact which will dissipate all uncertainty on this head. The Bonaparte family did not await a signal from the prisoner of Ham to appear in France, upon the stage of the new Republic. The very day after the revolution, two young men of this family hastened to take their part in the victory. One, the son of Lucien, a republican like his father, uniting the Corsican intrepidity to a patriotism almost Roman; the other, the son of Jerome, active, young, intelligent, clever, reminding one of his uncle in his features—the living image of that historical countenance which is engraven on more hearts than medals. Who, then, cared to recognise these representatives—these heirs—of an heroic epoch, in the midst of the storms, agitations, and convulsions of the revolutionary crisis? What recollection went back to them? What hopes were founded on their names? What promise was there imprinted on their brows? They passed by, unknown and unnoticed by the people, from whom nothing escapes, and who see everything. They mounted guard merely as patriotic volunteers at the door of the provisional government. They were elected by Corsica, and arrived to take their seats as representatives, without awakening a single transport, or one presentiment. They had not appeared either at Boulogne or Strasbourg! Let reason humiliate herself before such a result."

—This is precisely what has already occurred. Reason has humiliated herself—as well she might—before such a result.

The volume, we may say, contains, besides the portrait, a vindication of the events of December 2, 1851, by the same writer,—copies of some few speeches made by Louis Napoleon,—

and a string of indifferent articles from the columns of the *Pays* on the ideas and policy of the new ruler of France.—These papers were scarcely worthy of an English dress.

The School for Dreamers: a Story of the Present Day. By T. Gwynne. Smith, Elder & Co.

THOUGH this may be described as a less agreeable story than Mr. Gwynne's former effort, it exhibits progress in novel-writing—increased power—a more various command of character. There is something, however, to blame in Mr. Gwynne's manner of illustrating the argument for the sake of which he has opened "school" a second time. Let others deal with theories of progress and preservation,—let others appraise the respective value of Tory and Radical in the social scale,—we have here merely to do with the catalogue-maker.—The tune of the 'Fine Old English Gentleman' (so largely sung by gentry of the second table) has been always rated by us as one of the vilest of tunes in 'The Little Warbler.' The fling against 'the ci-devant white stocking' of the reviewer who was denounced for venal reviewing recoiled on the sprightly Lady who launched it—in place of hitting the *tendon Achilles* of the critic. 'The Book of Snobs' is not the most high-minded of books, though intended to be such.—Thus Mr. Gwynne, when bent on warning strong-minded ladies of title not to draggle their ancestral strawberry leaves in the mire of Liberalism by bestowing their nobility on Chartist barristers, has impaired the force of his lesson by gratuitous caricature. According to his class-dictionary, a Democrat is in himself a creature sufficiently horrible, dangerous and to be distrusted—without its being necessary for the specimen chosen by Lady Caroline to address her "as my dear gurl,"—to take her home to dinners, which were "always nasty and flabby" with forks of steel, and salt in egg-cups,—and to introduce her to a set of female republicans who "all piqued themselves on their intense morality and lack of religion."—Devices of this order, we insist, argue coarseness, not refinement of taste; moreover, they indicate a thinker so ill at ease regarding the strength of his own cause and the powers of his antagonists, as to be compelled, in default of better logic, to use reasonings by right presumptive current among those who sell fish. When pressed hard, these will retaliate not on the morals or principles of the opposite party, but on "his ugly face!" and Mr. Gwynne's expedient for recommending the "aristocratic element" by contrast, essentially belongs to their school. There may have been no intention of preaching by nicknames, it is true;—but the fault has nevertheless been committed. It is worth while to point out this, because Mr. Gwynne ought to be, and might become, something far superior to a class-railor. There is a spirit of enjoyment in his descriptions, which indicates a genial temperament as well as a shrewd eye. He is familiar with the points, pastimes and prodigalities of English country life: describes a great house well—and great people not amiss. Lady Caroline Hall's first visit to her parents is cleverly touched: the same may be said of her Christmas spent among her husband's coarse and cordial relations. Lord Allingham, too, her brother, in spite of his having a touch or two of the *Adonis* so dear to ladies' maids, is a generous gentlemanly fellow: who condescends in his choice of a wife, without his condescension being made too oppressively apparent.—'The School for Dreamers,' in short, may be credited with life, humour and some vigour. Mr. Gwynne seems to be aware that he possesses the last-named gift, and is anxious to display it to the

utmost advantage in those short sentences which, however meant to appear concise and epigrammatic, are often merely affected—and sometimes reprehensible as bad English. Let him, among his other school-exercises, consider the point at which the author of 'Two Old Men's Tales'—and our greater Mr. Dickens, also—have arrived, owing to their fancy of securing poignancy by punctuation.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Art-Education at Home and Abroad. By G. W. Yapp.—Mr. Yapp has here brought together into one view the state of Art-education both at home and abroad—and the state of public opinion and of the Press in reference to this important subject. The pamphlet is very properly dedicated to the Council of the Society of Arts; which has so essentially contributed to awaken and enlighten the public as to the necessity, in the present state of the world, of uniting Science and Art with our old manufacturing skill,—and as to the advantages that would result from such union. All the topics with which Mr. Yapp deals are familiar to the readers of the *Athenæum*,—and indeed Mr. Yapp has drawn on its columns as one source of his materials. But there will be a convenience to the public in having the entire subject here as it were brought together and indexed.—Mr. Yapp has one suggestion of detail which may be quoted as an item in the general scheme not elsewhere, we believe, enforced in connexion with this subject. In addition to the larger provisions making for the popular teaching, he says:—"If the education of the people in Art is to be seriously considered and earnestly pursued, let there be collections (they need not be very large or expensive) of casts from good models, arranged with taste, and described fully and legibly, so that all who choose may learn something about them, set up in such places as Victoria Park and Kennington Common; the working man, his wife, and his children, might then accustom their eyes to beauty of form, and insensibly almost acquire a taste for the arts. A few of Paxton's pillars, and three or four hundred feet of glass, would form a building which, furnished with a few good casts, and inexpensive flowering plants, would be one of the least expensive and most effective means of creating public taste that Government could possibly provide for the people."

The Royal Blue Book, Fashionable Directory for 1853.—This new edition of an old carriage favourite appears in its usual compact form and with its own peculiar felicities of arrangement. The mapping out of the metropolis of fashion into separate districts, so as to show, as it were, at a glance the names of all the dwellers in any particular locality—instead of mixing up Belgrave Place, New Road, with Belgrave Place, Belgrave Square, and the like, as must be the case in a plan strictly based on an alphabetical arrangement—has its advantages for many. As we said in reference to the 'Red Book,' it is impossible for us to guarantee the accuracy of the great mass of statistical information contained in books of this class;—but we can state that, in the few instances in which we have verified the statements given in the 'Royal Blue Book,' we have found them correct. There is a word of suggestion to add. These Court Guides are all growing most incommodiously large,—and as fashionable London is every year enlarging itself, it is necessary that they should grow with its growth. But the inconvenience of an over-bulky volume might be removed, to some extent, for a time by the rejection of advertisements. People do not look for such miscellaneous information in the back pages of a directory:—and we suspect that, if the purchaser had his choice, he would prefer the volume bound up without these, to him, misplaced addenda.

Who's Who, in 1853? Edited by C. H. Onkes, M.A.—This is the fifth year's issue of a very useful Dictionary of public and official men. Under its quaint title, members of class dignities, hereditary and casual, public Boards and other public bodies, are marshalled in columns printed at once with neatness and clearness—forming a volume

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Oliver & Boyd's New Edinburgh Almanac and National Repository for the Year 1853,—*Henry Butler's Dramatic Almanac and Theatrical Directory*,—and *The Scottish Temperance League Register and Abstinence Almanac*,—are the respective titles of three additional remembrancers for the new year. Oliver & Boyd's appears to be somewhat extended and improved,—a large space being devoted to careful summaries of the parliamentary Reports. The other two almanacs named address themselves to particular classes, and have no interest beyond the circle of their own elect.

Rhyming Dictionary, for the Use of Young Poets: with an Essay on English Versification, and Explanatory Observations on the Selection and Use of the Rhymes.—A very useful manual, which all who wish to excel in the art of writing poetry, or even to form an intelligent opinion on the merits of poetical writing, would do well to consult. The essay on English versification throws much light upon all those sources of beauty and effect which are connected with the mechanism of poetry. Without disputing the necessity of the "vision and the faculty divins" as a qualification for the production of genuine poetry, the writer maintains that this alone is not sufficient. Art must combine with Nature if complete excellence is to be attained. This position, though more distinguished for its truth than for its novelty, is—as he observes—often lost sight of, to the misfortune of many. Hence, he insists on it with great force,—and points out how much all great poets have been indebted for their success to a laborious cultivation of the art of versification. His remarks on measure, rhythm, rhyme, accent, pause, and the effects of particular letters and sounds, will well repay a careful perusal.—The 'Rhyming Dictionary' is short, but sufficient for ordinary purposes; and—with the directions for using it—admits of easy reference.

Landmarks of History. Ancient History from the Earliest Times to the Mahometan Conquest. By the Author of 'Kings of England,' &c.—Without any sacrifice of brevity, the writer of this useful work has managed to give his reader a sufficient account of all the persons and events necessary to be known and remembered by those who wish to acquire a thorough understanding of Scripture and Church History, as well as of ancient history in general. Considering the narrowness of his limits compared with the length of the period brought under review, it is remarkable how much interest he has thrown in by the narration of characteristic anecdotes and remarkable sayings. With a happy discrimination, he has extracted the marrow of history,—omitting matters not essential to the instruction derivable from this study. Should his present effort be successful—as it deserves to be,—he proposes the preparation of similar works on mediæval and on modern history. We trust he will in that case not forget to supply at least a table of contents, if not an index:—both of which are wanting in the present volume.

Common Sense Tracts—Part I.—The Priest and the Curate; or, the Two Diaries. By Catherine Sinclair.—This, we are informed by Miss Sinclair's preface, is the first of twelve tracts which she means to blow (one a month) in defence of Protestantism and in defiance of Papistry:—mixing up in their blasts, it is further advertised, church tunes, conventicle hymns, Cheapside ballads and Chesham Place drawing-room airs.—"In the proposed little cluster of stories," says our lively lady, "the object is, to be as diversified as the Dulwich Gallery, where visitors inspect first a cheering representation of humble piety in Wilkie's picture of 'A Cottar's Saturday Night,' and turn next to observe a red-hatted Cardinal proudly bestowing his benediction on a prostrate suppliant kneeling in the gutter; or the amateur passes on to a sketch of little Samuel praying alone to an unseen God, in his own childish simplicity. Such scenes are all promiscuously mingled in a gallery, as these Tracts are intended to be, with gayer subjects."—By way of commencement, we have printed, on parallel pages, a pair of imaginary diaries. One is kept by a Lutheran curate, as white as snow, who is

rewarded at the close of this first 'Common Sense Tract' with a fat living and the prospect of a Lady Jane. The other is kept by a Roman Catholic confessor, as black as a coal—who tells how false miracles are wrought,—how innocent girls are "put up" to wickedness, and how English Lady Marys are to be brought round to "the principles and practice of the Spanish and Italian ladies, which will be an immense improvement—masks, confessionals, cicisbeos, duennas, carnivals, processions, assignations, convents," &c. Common-sense readers will be pleased to understand that the above is a literal quotation of Miss Sinclair's representation of a Papistical diary:—and, in proportion as they are disposed to exercise the right of private judgment, will reject it as something too gross for the most credulous of sectarians to swallow.

Speech of Viscount Jocelyn in the House of Commons, on the Case of the Amers of Upper Scinde.—This is an authenticated report of Lord Jocelyn's speech, printed in behalf of the exiles whose cause it advocates.

Observations on Heraldry. By P. G. Hamerton.—This little book reminds us of a saying of Lord Halifax's, to the effect that "Heraldry is one of those foolish things which a man of sense may nevertheless despise too much." Mr. Hamerton does not offend modern and more liberal notions by any ridiculous claims in favour of this old-world branch of learning,—but at the same time he attaches a real importance to his favourite theme. His book is purely elementary. He avoids technicalities and abstruse discussions. What he has to say, he says so that the merest tyro in the mystery may understand him. This is his advantage,—a rare one in such matters.

Account of the Battle of Meeanee. By Major C. Waddington, Commanding Engineer with the British Force. Written in 1843 and published in 1847 in Vol. IX. of the *Royal Engineer Professional Papers*. With some *Sketches on that Account*. By Major-General Sir W. Napier, K.C.B., dated September 10th, 1847, and published in 1849 in Vol. X. of the *Royal Engineer Professional Papers*, under the title of 'Explanation of the Battle of Meeanee.' To which is added, a *Reply to the Observations of Major-General Sir W. Napier*. By Lieut.-Col. Waddington, dated 28th September 1849, and published in 1851 in Vol. I. of the *Royal Engineer Professional Papers*, New Series.—In a case like this there is nothing for it but a full explanation as given by the controversialists themselves. On the points in dispute we pronounce no opinion.

Directions for obtaining both Positive and Negative Pictures upon Glass by means of the Collodion Process, &c. By T. H. Hennah.—This little work appears to include directions for practising the collodion process as simple as any that have been published.—It contains, in addition, Gustave le Gray's method of obtaining black and violet colours in the positive proofs by the use of the chloride of gold.

The Key to the Mystery; or, the Book of Revelation Translated. By Edward Richer, of Nantes.—The reader familiar with our manner of dealing with books of a certain quality will understand why, in place of reviewing this second volume of "The Spiritual Library," we simply transcribe the announcement of its contents which opens the Preface.—"The following work contains a familiar exposition, or rather translation, of the emblematic language of the Apocalypse, first promulgated by Emanuel Swedenborg. The source from which Swedenborg derived this knowledge was that of vision, or extasis, or clairvoyance,—in short, communication with the spiritual world."

Cyclopædia Bibliographica: a Library Manual of Theological and General Literature, and Guide for Authors, Preachers, Students and Literary Men. Part I.—This Cyclopædia appears to be founded on the collections of Mr. Darling of Great Queen Street, now called "The Metropolitan Library, Clerical and General." The idea is a good one,—and when complete the two volumes of which it is to be composed ought to contain a vast amount of useful literary and bibliographical information.

How to make the Working Classes Moral.—[*De la Moralisation des Classes Laborieuses*]. By A. Grün.

—M. Grün, well known as the chief *rédauteur* of the *Moniteur Universel*, and the author of several works on parliamentary jurisprudence, contributed last year to the pages of the *Moniteur* a number of papers on the moral condition of the labouring classes in France,—and these are now reprinted under the above title. The writer treats his theme in the light—not to say flippant—style of French social pundits, under the various aspects of intemperance, imprudence, precocious marriages, disorderly passion, amusements, theatres, public fêtes, the influence of literature and the press,—and so forth, in the old jog-trot away.

Mr. Bohn has opportunely reproduced in his "Standard Library" M. Guizot's lectures on the *History of Representative Government in Europe*, as recently revised by their author for publication in France. M. Guizot's faith in the power of the representative system has been somewhat shaken by recent events,—though he scarcely appears willing to admit this, even to himself. The new Preface—in which the lecturer refers to the dream of his life and its strange interruption in his old age—will be read with much interest.—The same publisher has reprinted in one volume of his "Classical Library" translations of the three Roman historians, Sallust, Florus, and Velleius Paterculus, with notes, memoirs, and a common index to the three writers.—Dr. Cullen—not he of astronomical and polemical celebrity—has put forth a vigorous pamphlet on the question of an *Isthmus of Darien Ship Canal*, illustrated with maps, plans, and soundings. Dr. Cullen urges the feasibility of the project in very strong terms.

—Mr. Chapman of the Strand has reprinted from the *Daily News* a series of *Letters on Ireland* by Miss Martineau, penned by her during a recent visit to the island. They are reproduced textually from the newspaper, without revision,—and convey the lively impressions of a comparative stranger to the soil, in a style at once strong and graphic:—though what reason there could be for retaining in a permanent book form the merest details of the hour and allusions to a future which is already past, we fail to perceive. Miss Martineau says—"the letters were written, sometimes in a coffee-room, sometimes in the crowded single parlour of a country inn—now to the sound of the harp, and now to the clatter of knives and folks, and scarcely ever within the reach of books,"—and it occurs to us, that the last circumstance described as among the list of unfavourable circumstances might have suggested that something might be done with the materials collected much better than is done in this literal reprint.—The Messrs. Chambers have issued the first volume of what appears to be a new literary undertaking—if the term "literary" can be properly applied to such obvious compilations—under the title of *Chambers's Repository of Instructive and Amusing Tracts*. The volume contains tracts or papers on 'The Cotton Metropolis,' 'Australia,' 'the Rhine,' copious quotations from 'Paradise Lost,' and three or four little stories.—We have before us two American brochures on the subject of the late Daniel Webster. One is, an address by Theodore Parker, in the florid style of transatlantic eloquence, on *The Life of Daniel Webster*—in which the statesman is put in very questionable attitudes and compared with still more questionable people. The other seems to be, a popular collection of facts and anecdotes about his birth, life and death,—and bears the title of *Personal Memorials of Daniel Webster*. Perhaps we may have occasion to refer to one or both of these works when we review the 'Life' advertised by Mr. Lammam, Webster's private secretary.—Mr. Bentley has brought out a new and condensed edition of Commander Lynch's *Narrative of the United States Expedition to the River Jordan and the Dead Sea*, accompanied by a map of the district examined by the American explorers—also reduced.—In *Adlard and Palmer's Historic Copy Book*, the novelty which claims attention is, the substitution of an historic fact for the old common-place which used to figure at the head of the page. Thus, the work opens with a portrait of the Conqueror; and then ten sentences or copies which follow each set forth some historical fact or event:—as, "William the Conqueror, born 1027,

condary colour, then the addition thereto of the remaining primary will make white light. The usual term applied in such cases to the colour required to make up white light, is, that it is the *complementary* of the mixed or secondary colour. The union of red and blue gives violet, the complementary colour to which is yellow; red and yellow give orange, the complementary colour to which is blue; blue and yellow give green, the complementary colour to which is red.

Now we have this curious fact, that on railways the union of the two colours, the primary red to indicate danger, and the secondary green to denote caution, together make *white*, the signal for entire safety. This perhaps does not practically appear in *experiment*, when the mind is on the alert to distinguish between the two colours. If the rays from a green lamp, such as are used on railways, are thrown upon a white board, and those from a red lamp are directed to the same spot, the distance of the two lamps from the board being equal,—the red rays, though rendered paler, predominate. There is, in fact, too much red. But the red lamp may be removed so much further from the board than the green one as to allow the green rays to predominate; and there must be a point of distance where neither colour would predominate, and at which the mixture of the rays on the board would be white.

Some weeks since, I made an experiment on one of the metropolitan railways with a green and a red signal lamp. A man was stationed at the end of a tunnel about 400 yards long, and directed to waive the *two lights together*: the pointsman at the other end, not knowing anything of the nature of the experiment, was asked what light was waived. He was satisfied it was white; and could not be persuaded that two lights, a red and a green, were really used, although the matter was afterwards explained to him. I did not then pursue the experiment; trains were expected to pass, and it was important not to interfere with the ordinary signals by showing other lights.

It may sometimes happen, that in rapid travelling the rays from a red lamp and a green one shall flash together across the sight of an engine-driver; or, the unsteady motion of an engine may render the driver unable to see distinctly and separately two signals of different colours, the rays from which may fall upon his eye in parallel lines. In either case it is not improbable that the light might be regarded by him as white. A light may be discerned without the colour of it being distinctly seen. In such case, it would most likely be regarded as white,—that being the most common.

It is not improbable that some of the accidents which have occurred in railway travelling have arisen from the colours of the lights shown being indistinctly seen; perhaps, from a confusion of rays from two or more lamps. In some cases most contradictory evidence has been given as to the colour of the signal shown.

The subject is perhaps worthy of the attention of railway engineers. I venture, therefore, to trouble you with my observations hereon, in order that the question being made public, may, if important, be more thoroughly discussed.

I am, &c., W. H. TYNDALL,
Fellow of the Statistical Society.

Tottenham, Jan. 26.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

OUR apprehensions that a steam tender to the Rattlesnake would not be despatched by the Admiralty to assist the latter ship in her long and arduous voyage to Behring's Straits are confirmed:—the Admiralty having declared that they will not send a vessel on this important service.

Bearing in mind that the object of the Rattlesnake is, to convey provisions to the Plover, lying at or near Point Barrow, which is several hundred miles to the north-east of Behring's Straits,—and further, that the Plover did not attain that very high latitude without the greatest difficulty,—it is manifest that if it be of vital consequence that she should be reinforced, the strong arm of steam—

which is all but omnipotent in the Arctic Regions—should be employed to assist in accomplishing this arduous undertaking. Without such auxiliary power, it is probable that the object cannot be accomplished at all.

It is, indeed, proposed, as we are informed by Capt. Trollope, the Commander of the Rattlesnake, to tow his ship by steam through the Straits of Magellan:—but it is when the pack ice is encountered in Behring's Straits that steam is wanted,—not where the sea is open.

Though the Admiralty, however, have determined on performing this work of humanity in so imperfect a manner,—we have it in our power to announce that an individual will do what is left officially undone, and private enterprise will again fill up the deficient measure of public duty. That individual is, Lady Franklin; whose name will be handed down to distant generations in intimate and honourable connexion with the interesting history of the Arctic Expeditions. Failing in her earnest demands on the Admiralty to despatch a steamer to Behring's Straits, Lady Franklin conceived the project of herself sending out a vessel of this description. Grave monetary and other difficulties rose up against her; but these are lessened by intelligence which has lately reached her from Van Diemen's Land, to the effect that the friends of her gallant husband in that colony—over which, it will be remembered, he presided as Governor for five years—have, unsolicited, subscribed a sum, exceeding, we believe, 1,000*l.*, for the purpose of assisting his wife to defray the cost of the Private Searching Expeditions. The amount of the subscriptions, with an affectionate address signed by the authorities and principal inhabitants of Hobart Town and the neighbourhood, are now on their way to England. This large and seasonable reinforcement to her funds at once determined Lady Franklin to send out a steamer to assist,—or, as may be more truly said, to enable the Arctic Relief Expedition to Behring's Straits to be successfully carried out.

The ship that will in all probability be selected for this important service is, the *Isabel*,—which has lately made so dashing and successful a voyage to the head of Baffin's Bay and to the mouth of Wellington Channel. The steamer will probably be sent out about the middle of April. It is intended, we believe, that the Rattlesnake shall be despatched on the 2nd of February; but as she will be very deep in the water, owing to her excessive load of provisions, her rate of sailing will be diminished, so that a steamer sailing in April will easily overtake her.

A paragraph has appeared in the papers to the effect that Capt. Collinson, who has the command of the Searching Expedition at Behring's Straits, has been seen by some American whalers who have arrived at the Sandwich Islands from the Straits. It appears from inquiries which we have made, that this report has come through our Consul at Panama—and is therefore entitled to some credit. We do not, however, regard it as at all certain; but if it turn out to be correct, the fact of Capt. McClure, who is Capt. Collinson's colleague, having, as we know, penetrated far to the north-east, renders the re-provisioning of the Plover depot-ship at Point Barrow for his sake, as well as for that of Franklin and his companions—who may be working their way from Wellington Channel to the west—of the highest importance. The probability that this has been necessary would be confirmed by the alleged fact that Capt. Collinson—who, according to the last accounts, had not succeeded in getting his ship through the ice to the north, as his colleague had done—has been seen in the locality referred to.

We may mention with reference to the physical geography of Behring's Straits and the vicinity, that Capt. Moore—who has recently returned to England from that part of the Arctic Regions—declares, that, to the best of his belief, he described land on more than one occasion to the north of Point Barrow. This, as affecting the question of an open sea and a north-west passage, is of the highest importance.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

A three days' sale this week at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's included—or was to have included—a large mass of last century papers described in the catalogue as the "Family Papers of James Craggs, father and son; important State Papers of Eminent Public Ministers, some time deceased." Now, though this description was hardly justified by the papers themselves, there can be little doubt that some are of moment; and by men like Lord Mahon, and others versed in the minutiae of English history between 1720 and 1790, matters of value might be drawn from a careful examination of these "Family Papers." Much curiosity, we need not say, was excited among dealers and collectors by the sale in question,—but the auctioneer's hammer had not made papers exchange hands for more than six or seven lots, when the sale was stopped "by order of some one interested in the Correspondence." Now, there can be little doubt of the quarter from whence these "Family Papers" originally came. They formed a part at one time of the Stowe, or Craggs, or Grenville Papers,—and should have formed a part either of the Stowe collection sold to Lord Ashburnham, or of the Grenville Papers sold to Mr. Murray. By whom they were sent for sale to Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's has not transpired. Are they a part of the materials of the book by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos advertised as nearly ready?—or have they been separated from the parent papers, no one knows how, but much, it may be, in the same manner as the Cecil Papers obtained by Strype, and now in the British Museum, were separated from the parent stock of Cecil Papers so well preserved and so over-carefully guarded in the Library at Hatfield? The value of MSS. illustrative of English History and Biography has so materially increased within the last twenty years, that the temptations to expose such treasures to public competition in an auction-room has done good to history and biography, while it has led in some instances to literary forgeries, and in others to dishonest ways of obtaining possession of the papers themselves. In making these remarks we have not the slightest intention of insinuating aught against Messrs. Puttick & Simpson. The sale in which the Craggs Papers occurred contained much that was curious beyond the lots objected to "by some one interested in the Correspondence," and we have reason to believe was in every respect a *bond fide* sale. Still, there is a riddle about these same Craggs Papers which deserves to be solved,—and will we must suppose be solved before many weeks are over.

Mr. Whiston communicates to the press the particulars of the decisions recently made by the Dean and Chapter of Rochester in respect to the stipends of the Cathedral scholars. The four students, it appears, are to have 30*l.* 10*s.* each, instead of the late allowance of 5*l.* The twenty scholars, instead of the wretched pittance of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year, are to have 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The six bedesmen will receive 14*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in place of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The precentor and sacrist, instead of 40*s.* each, will be paid 10*l.* and 6*l.* respectively. The total additions amount to 442*l.* a year. This, as Mr. Whiston says, is a substantial beginning; though it may still be doubted whether the division of the Cathedral revenues is in the exact proportions intended by the statutes. For instance, it is assumed that the income of the canons is 680*l.* a year; but Mr. Whiston tells us that they have been proved to range about 1,000*l.* a year. What has been done, however, is right as to principle. The right of the case is admitted, and statutes which have been a dead letter for three hundred years have been brought to light and enforced by the zeal of our very useful reformer. Seeing that the principle for which he contended is partially adopted—and seeing also that the present Government is likely to legislate on the subject of Cathedral abuses,—Mr. Whiston holds himself relieved from his conditional pledge to carry the case of the scholars and their rights into the Court of Chancery.

The daily papers announce the death of Dr. George Gregory, in the 63rd year of his age. He studied medicine at Edinburgh,—and took his de-

gree of M.D. in 1811. He settled in London,—and in 1820 published his work on the Elements of the Theory and Practice of Medicine. The sixth edition of this work was published in 1846. He was appointed Physician to the Small Pox and Vaccination Hospital,—which office he held at the time of his death. The experience which he gained here he has given in his 'Lectures on Eruptive Fevers.' Dr. Gregory was a genial, kind-hearted man,—and his loss will be deeply felt in the circle in which he moved.

Oxford papers record the death of Edward John Chaplin, a Fellow of Magdalen College. By this event a Fellowship on the Rugby foundation becomes vacant.—Among other names, the week's obituary contains that of Mr. W. Dufaur Clark, for many years connected with the provincial press, and lately editor of the *Blackburn Standard*.

On Monday, the 7th of February, the Working Men's Lectures at the Museum of Practical Geology will be commenced, by Prof. R. Hunt,—who will deliver six lectures on the Applications of Physical Science. These will be followed by six on the Elements of Geology, by Prof. Ramsay,—and these again by six on the Elements of Natural History, by Prof. E. Forbes. The advantages of this arrangement over the system of single lectures, adopted last year, will be obvious. The terms are to be as before:—the payment of a registration fee of sixpence admitting the artisan to each course of lectures.

On Tuesday, the 8th of February, a meeting will be held at the Society of Arts, when a short paper will be read, and a discussion invited, on the propositions of the Postage Association. A large number of Members of Parliament and gentlemen connected with the commercial interest are expected to attend. The members of the Society and their friends are specially invited.—A Local Committee, which will consist of gentlemen of the highest standing in the City of London, is now in course of formation, to assist the Council of the Association in its labours. The names of all the members will shortly be published; but we may mention, in the mean time, that the following gentlemen have already agreed to join the Committee:—Baron Lionel Rothschild, M.P., George Moffatt, Esq., M.P., T. A. Mitchell, Esq., M.P., Samuel Gurney, jun., Esq., Thomas Hankey, jun., Esq., Governor of the Bank of England, T. H. Brooking, Esq., Ingram Francis, Esq., and J. D. Powles, Esq.

The 8th of March being the centenary of the birth of the elder Roscoe, the town of Liverpool, we understand, intends to celebrate the day as a literary holiday. The suggestion originated with some of Mr. Roscoe's old friends, members of the Literary and Philosophical Society, over which he so long presided. The proposal has been cordially responded to by the other learned Societies of the town, who have appointed committees to carry out the necessary arrangements. It is decided, that a public breakfast, at the Philharmonic Hall, shall form a principal feature in the day's proceedings. The Town Council have also determined that in honour of the occasion the magnificent collection of birds, &c., presented to the town by the Earl of Derby shall be inaugurated on that day. The Mayor intends to close the day at the Town Hall, where the distinguished guests invited to take part in the proceedings will meet the principal inhabitants of the neighbourhood at a *Soirée*.

The example of the Hyde Park gathering of the industries of nations grows in effect. Not only did that great event lend a powerful impulse to ideas also, introduced broader and more eclectic principles into displays of the same character with itself. The Duke of Saxe-Gotha, following in the wake of his illustrious relative, has resolved to hold next year an Exhibition of Industry and Art in his Palace of Friedenstein. How appropriate a site—the Palace of "the Rock of Peace"! This German gathering, like its antetype of the Crystal Palace, is to be general,—so that the Thuringian workman will be able to compare his skill, or want of skill, with that of his fellow-artizans of other nations. The Duke has undertaken to bear the whole loss, should the entrance

fees not cover the necessary cost, out of his own pocket.

In the city of Bath several institutions have been for some time struggling with all the difficulties arising from a division of interest and money, and one or two of them were fairly expiring. By the energy of Dr. Wilbraham Falconer and one or two other gentlemen, there is now every probability that a satisfactory union may be effected. This has been indeed so far accomplished, that on Wednesday last the first of a course of lectures was delivered in the Town Hall, to an amalgamated society organized out of three of the old institutions, under the title of the Bath City Lectures. The strength of union is in no instance so forcibly shown as in Literary and Scientific Institutions.—While on the subject of institutions, we may incidentally notice that several new institutions are rising around the Metropolis. The Camden Athenæum on one side proposes to supply a want felt on the north of London,—and the Brixton and Stockwell Literary and Scientific Institute is forming for the purpose of affording to a large district on the south all the advantages derivable from reading-rooms, a library and lectures.

The Dublin Industrial Exhibition of this year will receive, says the *Times*, "a most valuable contribution from Prussia. The indefatigable agent of this undertaking here has succeeded in getting together a most interesting collection of the works of celebrated living painters, sculptors, and other artists of Prussia; which, together with the *élite* of Prussian manufactures, to which the Government is now summoning the different Chambers of Commerce to exhibit, will form a complete representation of the present state of the fine arts and industry in this country. Prof. Kiss is working hard at his magnificent colossal group of St. George and the Dragon, in order to get it ready in time for the Exhibition. The subject is chosen in honour of England, and to express his own feelings of admiration for that country. The Directors of the Hamburg Railway have conceded to the personal representations of the agent a reduction in the freight of all the works of Art destined for the Dublin Exhibition,—an accommodation and facility which had been denied to the Committee of the New York Exhibition on another railroad."

Ionian papers are full of indignation at the asserted ill-treatment of the veteran historian Mustoxidi by our present Lord High Commissioner. The Chevalier Mustoxidi—described by Lord Byron many years ago as one of the seven learned men in Italy—has long been the chief literary light of Corfu. He was the official historiographer of the Republic. He was the man whom all recent High Commissioners, including the present, have sought to place at the head of Ionian education. But, regardless of his age and reputation, Sir Henry Ward has, it appears, deprived him of his public functions for the crime of having signed a requisition to the radical ex-member for Corfu, Dr. Poffandi, to stand as a candidate at the new election.—If the facts be as stated, it is probable that a Cabinet containing such literary elements as we have now at home will scarcely confirm this illiberal deprivation.

Recent letters from Egypt report the discovery in that country of a buried city. It is alleged to be situated about five hours' journey from Cairo, near the first cataract. It is said, that an Arab having observed what appeared to be the head of a sphynx appearing above the ground near this spot, drew the attention of a French gentleman to the circumstance,—who commenced excavating, and laid open a long-buried street, which contained 38 granite sarcophagi, each of which weighed about 68 tons, and which formerly held evidently the ashes of sacred animals. The French gentleman, it is added, has got a grant of the spot from the Egyptian Pacha, and has exhumed great quantities of curiosities,—some of them ancient earthenware vessels of a diminutive size. This street when lighted up at night, forms a magnificent sight. It is upwards of 1,600 yards in length. Many of the curiosities dug out have, it is added, to be kept buried in sand to preserve them from perishing.

A School of a new kind has just been founded in Leipzig. The booksellers of that city have associated to institute a seminary for the forming of skilful assistants in all the different branches of their especial commerce. Indigent young men are to be admitted gratuitously,—others to pay a small annual fee.

The Imperial Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg having to elect a new President in the room of the deceased Duke Maximilian of Leuchtenberg, has hugged its royal chain—which death had cast loose—after a somewhat desperate fashion. The chief of this body of philosophers is now the widow of the defunct Prince,—her Imperial Highness, the Grand-Duchess Marie Nicolaiowna,—and his Imperial Majesty the Czar has been graciously pleased to confirm the appointment.

Mr. Phillimore, the well-known jurist, has an important notice on the orders of the House of Commons. He proposes in the coming session to move an address to Her Majesty praying that a commission be appointed to digest the law of England into a Code. This is a great work, often challenged and long postponed. The realization of it would occupy a number of able men for years. But when done, it would be a glory to our age and a splendid memorial of every one concerned in its construction. A code of laws is at once an invaluable historical document—as witness the Burgundian Code, and many others—and itself an historical event. Thus, we speak of the history of the world before the publication of the *Codex Theodosianus*,—or date the history of an age from the collections of Justinian. The roll of victorious war from the Tagus to the Vistula did not, in our own time, eclipse the fame of the *Code Napoléon*; and after the great conqueror had passed away, the system of laws to which he had given his name remained in the countries which he had once ruled, the last but permanent and best witness of his widely-extended empire. The boundaries of France have long been reduced to their ancient limits, but the area of French law still extends into Italy and beyond the Rhine. The book held its ground after the sword was broken. Though the *Codes of Napoléon* were not perfect—the criminal code especially was found to be more sanguinary than suits the soft nature of the Lombard or accords with the humane sentiment of the Swabian—still, the whole system was so simple, so exact, so philosophical, that these various nations adopted and retained it in spite of its foreign origin and its occasional rigours. It is so pleasant for him who is bound to take note of and obey it, to be able to put the whole code of a country in his pocket! When we look round the shelves of a good law library—count the statutes at large—consider the number of judgments which embody the unwritten law—and think of the vast mass of criticisms and commentaries necessary to explain them,—and then take in our hands the single stout little volume of a thousand pages in which the Five Codes constituting the *Code Napoléon* are all printed,—it is impossible not to feel that our lawyers have allowed a great work to lie over year after year and generation after generation much to their discredit. Mr. Phillimore should press his motion warmly. He will be met, it may be feared, by many prejudices, and his project will be thwarted by all the forms of office. But the work to be done is worthy of the noblest ambition. Without the Code, the Institutes, and the Pandects, what would have been the fame of Justinian! "The vain titles of his victories," says Gibbon, "are faded in the dust, but the name of the legislator is inscribed on a fair and everlasting memorial." Without the Roman Law, what would men care about Trebonian? These labours give the emperor a largeness of fame like that of the earlier Cæsars,—they give Trebonian a place in history that reminds us of Francis Bacon. Nor is the time for a general codification of English law inopportune. The studies of a series of Commissions have prepared the way—some important sections—as, for instance, that of Criminal law—are already digested, and only wait their incorporation in a general system. It would be a great addition to the peaceful triumphs of our age and nation if we could add to them the *Code Victoria*.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—Three Exhibitions daily.—The Diorama illustrating the WELLINGTON CAMPAIGNS, with the additional Pictures—WALTER CASTLE, the DUKES CHAMBER, LYING IN STATE, FUNERAL PROCESSION, and INTERIOR OF ST. PAULS, with Vocal and Instrumental Music, is now exhibiting daily during the Holidays, at Twelve, Three and Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s, 2s, 6d., and 3s.
ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.

LAST WEEK—BARTLETT'S GREAT DIORAMA OF JERUSALEM and the HOLY LAND. Painted under the direction of Mr. W. Beverly, with grand Sacred Vocal Music conducted by Mr. J. H. Tully, daily at Three and Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s, 2s, and 3s. 6d.
ST. GEORGE'S GALLERY, HYDE PARK CORNER.

GREAT GLOBE—Mr. WYLD'S large MODEL OF THE EARTH, also of the ARCTIC REGIONS, in Leicester Square, open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Lectures hourly upon every subject of Geographical Science. A Collection of Models and Maps for reference.—Admission, 1s.; Schools, Half-price.

MR. HENRY NICHOLLS'S READINGS OF SHAKESPEARE at the Music Hall, Store Street, Bedford Square.—On TUESDAY, Feb. 1, The MERCHANT OF VENICE.—Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s. Private Boxes, 10s. and 15s. Commence at 8 o'clock.—16, Howard Street, Strand.

PATRON—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.
ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION—ENTIRE CHANGE OF MUSIC.—An OPTICAL and MUSICAL ILLUSTRATION OF SHAKESPEARE'S 'MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM,' introducing the ORIGINAL MUSIC by Sir Henry Bishop, Morning and Evening.—LECTURES: by J. H. Pepper, Esq., on the ENDLESS AMUSEMENTS OF CHEMISTRY, adapted to a Juvenile Audience.—By Dr. Bachoffner, on the MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF A JET OF STEAM.—By Mr. Crispie, on ERICSSON'S CALORIC ENGINE—DISSOLVING VIEWS, including Day and Night Views of WALKER CASTLE, WALKER CHURCH, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s.; Schools, and Children under ten years of age, Half-price.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Jan. 13.—Col. Sabine in the chair.—'Description of some Species of the Extinct Genus *Nerodon*,' by Prof. Owen.

GEOLOGICAL.—Jan. 19.—Sir C. Lyell, V.P., in the chair.—J. Brogren, jun., Esq., was elected a Fellow.—The following communications were read:—'Notice of the Discovery of Reptilian Remains and a Land Shell in an upright Fossil Tree in the Coal of Nova Scotia,' by Sir C. Lyell and J. W. Dawson, Esq.—'Notes on these Reptilian Remains,' by Prof. Wynam and Prof. Owen.—In September last Sir C. Lyell and Mr. Dawson re-visited the strata of the coal formation at the South Joggins, Nova Scotia, with a view of ascertaining what may have been the particular circumstances which favour the preservation of so many fossil trees, at so many different levels, in an erect position (such a position being a rare and very exceptional fact in the coal strata of North America generally). They were also desirous of obtaining additional evidence with regard to the relation of the Stigmara as a root to the Sigillaria;—and also directed special attention to the difference of the deposits enveloping the upright trees, and those that fill the trunks themselves. In examining the stony contents of these fossil trees, the remains of plants, such as Ferns, Flabellaria, Sigillaria, Calamites, and Stigmara were met with; and in one of the trees were found, near the base of the trunk, several small bones intermingled with fragments of carbonized wood. The whole were imbedded in a dark-coloured stony matrix, in breaking up which, besides the bones, was found a small shell, referable to the well-known group of land shells, *Pupa* and *Clausilia*; the osseous remains consist of the bones of the head and extremities, jaw, teeth, vertebra, and dermal plates of one or more small reptiles. These have been examined by Prof. J. Wynam, of Harvard University, and Prof. Owen, who pronounce them to have belonged to a Batrachian reptile allied to the *Menobrachius* and *Menopoma* at present inhabiting the rivers and lakes of North America. These eminent comparative anatomists also point out that the fossil reptiles bear some interesting relations to the Labyrinthodont type of reptiles.—'Notice of a Batrachoid Fossil from the Coal-shale of Carlisle, Lanarkshire,' by Prof. Owen. This specimen was met with by Prof. McCoy in the Museum of the Earl of Enniskillen, and consists of the right half of the facial part of the skull of a small reptile, closely allied to the *Archegosaurus*. The component bones are slightly dislocated and squeezed into the shale, with their smooth inner surfaces exposed. With regard to the affinities of the *Archegosaurus* of the German coal-fields, observes the Professor, of which a large

proportion of the skeleton has been obtained, "I retain the same opinion which I formed after becoming acquainted with the estimable work of Prof. Goldfuss, and after receiving from its author casts of the fossils therein described and figured, viz., that they were essentially Batrachian, and that the *Archegosaurus* is most nearly allied to the *Perennibranchiate*, or lowest, or most fish-like of that order of reptiles. The evidence which Sir C. Lyell has obtained in corroboration of that afforded by foot-prints of the existence of reptilia in the coal formations of Nova Scotia leads also to a reference of these coal-field reptiles to the same low group in the air-breathing vertebrate classes. The fossil above described," continues Prof. Owen, "gives additional evidence to the same purport, and extends the known geographical range of the Batrachoid reptilia of the carboniferous epoch."

ASIATIC.—Jan. 15.—Sir George Staunton in the chair.—Prof. Wilson delivered a lecture on the Vedas. He commenced by observing, that when about to bring out his translation of the Rigveda, he applied to an eminent publishing firm, and, to his surprise, was met by the question, "What are the Vedas?" Though the members of the Asiatic Society were not likely to ask such a question,—still, so far as regards the character and purport of these works, the investigations to which they have been subjected, and the light they throw upon a remote antiquity, it might very fairly be put. The existence of these books became known to Europe about the middle of the last century; and the sceptical philosophers of that time eagerly welcomed the arrival of books which they considered to be superior in antiquity and more worthy of belief than the received records of creation. It was difficult, however, to gratify their curiosity, for the Brahmins guarded their sacred books with jealous care; and it was not till 1789 that a copy reached Europe. This was obtained by Col. Polier, from Jeypoor, and was presented to the British Museum. Extracts from other works had often been palmed off by the Brahmins as specimens of the Vedas; and the Jesuit missionaries in India went even still further, for they fabricated several spurious Vedas, with the view of disseminating the doctrines and legends of the Romish Church. One of these works, 'L'Ezour Vedam,' was translated into French; and, though an obvious forgery, was declared by Voltaire one of the most precious gifts ever received from the East,—and was deemed by him to have been written at least four centuries before the time of Alexander. The lecturer then proceeded to notice the labours of Europeans on the Vedas, and the means taken to make their contents known to the world; when it appeared that of the four Vedas, the texts of three and the translations of two are either printed or in course of publication. The Vedas consist of two parts,—the *Mantra* and *Brahmana*, or the practical and speculative,—the former consisting of hymns, and the latter chiefly of directions for the application of the hymns to the principal religious ceremonies. The metaphysical treatises called Upanishads are included in the Brahmanas. The whole of the hymns, as grouped together, form what is called the *Sanhita* of the Veda: that of the Rigveda contains about 10,000 stanzas; and the shortest, that of the Sama or third Veda, about 1,600. Of the four Vedas, the Rigveda is certainly the most ancient, for parts of that are found in each of the others. The hymns of the Mantras are more ancient than the Brahmanas; and the Upanishads, though always considered as integral parts of the Veda, belong to a totally different era and system. The chief value of the Vedas depends upon their high antiquity; and the lecturer, after reviewing the various points tending to fix the age of the Rigveda, arrived at the conclusion that it was compiled about the fourteenth or fifteenth century B.C.,—a period agreeing with that already assigned to it by Mr. Colebrooke, on astronomical data furnished by the Hymns themselves. This book is thus contemporary with the Pentateuch. The religious worship of the Vedas is devoted almost exclusively to the personified elements; and the most remarkable result of our acquaint-

ance with these works is, the discovery that no warrant is found in them for any of the principal dogmas and institutions of modern Hindûism. The sacred triad, the linga, the goddess Durga, and the incarnations of Vishnu, with all that now constitutes transcendental Hindûism, are unknown to the Vedas. It is doubtful whether there be any trace in them of the doctrine of metempsychosis; and the institution of caste is nowhere explicitly mentioned,—neither has any authority been found for the burning of widows. The Hindûs appear to have been a Northern people, and a branch of the Scythic race; and those of the Vedas are found located in the Punjab, and along the Indus. They were an agricultural people, but were familiar with ships, trades, and manufactures; for the horse, elephant, and camel were made to serve them, and the crafts of the weaver, carpenter, and goldsmith are often mentioned. The real character of their sacred writings has hitherto been hidden from the Hindûs by the difficulties of the language; for the Brahmins who recite the hymns at ceremonies do not pretend to understand them. Through the English language, then,—a medium of which multitudes are already able to avail themselves,—the Hindûs will thus become acquainted with those works which they deem the basis of their faith, and will see the utter hollowness of this foundation. The translations into English will be of great interest to the European inquirer, for in them he will find the ancient representation of a people who still exist as a nation after the lapse of 3,000 years.—Sir T. Erskine Perry and T. W. Henderson, Esq., were elected members.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Jan. 13.—J. Payne Collier, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Already, not fewer than thirty-five Fellows have come forward to avail themselves of the opportunity of being elected under the law reducing the admission fee to five guineas, and the annual subscription to two. Thus, more members have been added in two months than we believe in any previous two years since the cost of belonging to the Society was increased in 1807.—Mr. W. Hardy presented to the library a copy of Casaubon's '*Historia Augusta Scriptores Sec.*' with the autograph of Ben Jonson—*Sum Ben Jonsonii*—on the fly-leaf. We understood that the text was also annotated by the great poet.—An exhibition by Mr. Newman attracted much notice: it was, an incised stone, dug up in or near Watling Street, during the improvements, with Runic characters round it (unfortunately the inscription was incomplete in consequence of a fracture), and with the representation of a dragon on the surface. Mr. Saull, in an elaborate paper, argued that the language was ancient Norse, and it stated that King Ina had caused the stone to be cut.—Mr. Benjamin Williams laid upon the table rubbings of the devices on the brass candelabra said to have been presented by Charlemagne to the Church at Aix-la-Chapelle, where he was buried, although his remains were afterwards removed. They were not accompanied by any description, dissertation, or historical memoir,—which would have been acceptable; but the copies, we apprehend not hitherto known in this country, were very minutely examined.—The conclusion of Mr. Parker's communication (illustrated by highly finished drawings) on certain churches and ruins in Poitou, &c., was read;—as well as a paper by Mr. Bartlett (to which Mr. Akerman made additions) on the recent discovery of stilted vessels in a most unfrequented part of the New Forest. They were Roman; and it was evident that there had once existed one or more potteries on the spot,—all trace of which, as well as of the early inhabitants and their dwellings, had been obliterated by William I., when he made the New Forest a royal domain, and set it apart for the sport of hunting. These relics had been exhumed very near that part of the Forest where William Rufus was killed; but they did not present a single new type, and few of the vessels were entire. The fact of their existence in that locality has not until now been ascertained; and Mr. Akerman was of opinion from it, that the neighbourhood had once been thickly inhabited, although no traces of ancient

buildings had been found, and even the precise site of the kilns was uncertain.—The business of the evening concluded with the election of Dr. H. Todd, of Dublin University.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Jan. 10.—Mr. Mocatta, V.P., in the chair.—Prof. Donaldson read a paper entitled 'Some Remarks on a certain class of Gallo-Byzantine Churches in and near Perigueux, in France.' He traced briefly the history of Byzantine architecture, referring to ground plans illustrating the adoption of the form of the Greek cross and the cupola, in Greece, and the extension of those features into other countries. In Perigueux, Poitiers, Angoulême, &c., are many churches presenting decidedly Byzantine features; and these appear to have been erected by a colony of Venetians, who settled in that part in the tenth century. Mr. Donaldson described the leading features of those buildings, especially of the Church of St. Front, at Perigueux; and pointed out a similarity of plan to the Greek churches in some of the early Norman churches of England. He suggested, that an examination of our own Norman buildings would render it possible to divide them into two or more distinct classes, more or less presenting the characteristic ornaments of the debased Greek style.—Mr. Scott, Dr. Henszelmann, Mr. Godwin, and others, took part in the discussion which ensued; and Mr. Billings, declaring that no practical result could be expected from Dr. Henszelmann's new theory of Gothic architecture, into which a Committee of the Institute is now inquiring, protested against the assertion of that gentleman, that he (Mr. Billings) and other English authors had failed in their researches on the subject.

Jan. 24.—Mr. Inman, V.P., in the chair.—Prof. Donaldson read a paper, 'On the Architectural Medals of the Ancients,' as illustrating the edifices and customs of the Greeks and Romans,—illustrating his remarks by a series of enlarged drawings of the specimens referred to. For the present purpose the Lecturer classified the coins bearing architectural representations, as follows:—1, Those showing sacred edifices, temples, altars, and funeral or sepulchral structures; 2, Monumental works, as triumphal arches, trophies, &c.; 3, Edifices of public utility, as the forum, bridges, ports, &c.; and, 4, Representations of theatres, amphitheatres, and circuses. On this occasion, however, his remarks were limited to the first class only; in illustration of which he cited numerous delineations of temples and parts of temples erected in Rome and its provinces,—many of which corresponded in a remarkable manner with existing remains, and with authentic descriptions of the buildings themselves, and served to elucidate various minute points of much interest as to their arrangement and accessories. Not only the different orders of columns in these representations, but the most trifling points of detail are often distinctly marked; and the specimens exhibited by Mr. Donaldson especially illustrated the Temples of Antoninus and Faustina, of Mars Ultor, and of Venus and Rome, at Rome,—as well as that of the Paphian Venus at Cyprus, of Astarte at Tripolis, of Diana at Ephesus, with the Temple of Janus, and others at Antioch, &c. Two Greek specimens only were referred to: representing the Acropolis and the Theatre of Bacchus at Athens. On some of the Roman specimens it is evident that the whole temple is not intended to be shown; although such columnar structures are generally called temples. Mr. Donaldson suggested that these were representations of the statue of the Divinity, surmounted by its canopy or baldachino, which latter gave rise to the ciborium in Roman-Catholic churches. This suggestion was adopted by the members and visitors present,—and a vote of thanks to the lecturer was passed, with a request that he would pursue this interesting subject.

STATISTICAL.—Jan. 17.—Lord Overstone, President, in the chair.—H. Mann and J. Lodge, Esqs., were elected Fellows.—'On the Principles which ought to regulate a just and equitable Income-Tax,' by Dr. Farr.—The author commenced by stating the leading principles upon which an

equitable income-tax might be based. He defined the terms "value" and "produce," and showed that "income" was as much produce as the proceeds of a farm or any other concern; that anything which yields produce is property, and that consequently all free labourers and professional men were property. This he designated "inherent" property, and all other property in his possession "external" property. He then defined the term "profit," showing that it was not merely the produce, minus the current expenses, but was the difference between what was ordinarily termed profit and the wages of industry, &c. The interest of capital he resolved into two elements, the profit and the premium of assurance against loss; thus, assuming that 3 per cent. is the prevailing rate of interest, and that the foreign Governments cannot generally borrow money for less than 5 per cent., the difference, 2 per cent., is the premium to cover the risks of loss; no constant relation existed between the value of property and produce, but in a series of years a steady relation is found to obtain between property and profit. The public income of the country was in the ratio of 2l. per head on the population; the income-tax formed one-tenth of the public revenue, or 4s. per head. The State, out of its revenues, has to fulfil all its engagements with the public creditor, to protect national honour, life, and property, maintain its own existence, promote religion, education, science, culture, and art, redress violations of the law of nations, secure its immortality, and transmit its life, as well as its glories, to new nations;—therefore, every member of the community should contribute every year to the public expenditure in proportion to the amount of property in his possession during the year, which was in accordance with the well-known maxim of Adam Smith, "That every subject ought to contribute towards the support of his Government in proportion to his respective ability." But the fact is, that the incomes of the different classes of the community are the produce of different kinds of property, and a uniform tax on this produce is neither proportional to their profit, property, or ability, as will be seen by the subjoined statement:—

	Property.	Income.
A. has	£33,333 in Consols	£1,000
B. ..	6,500 .. Long Annuities	1,000
C. ..	15,000 .. Houses	1,000
D. ..	30,000 .. Land in England	1,000
E. ..	18,000 .. Land in Ireland	1,000
F. ..	10,000 .. Life Annuities	1,000

It is evident that with such an inequality of value for purposes of sale, the tax should be levied in the same ratio, and not as if the values were equal; and the author considered that the indignation of the intelligent classes of the community was not directed against the amount, or the principle of an equitable property-tax, but against the injustice of its assessment; and this view he supported by historical allusions. A just distribution of the taxation of the country over all classes, and over all the property of the country, bearing, like the pressure of the atmosphere, equally on all sides, will present an irresistible barrier against anarchical inroads on the rents of land, or the interest of money, and, while it leaves the industry of the nation free, will, on the firm ground of public credit, rest on an everlasting foundation. The paper was an elaborate one, and contained mathematical formulæ, by which simple tables could be computed for determining and taxing nearly all the property in the country.—A protracted discussion ensued, in which Mr. Eabbage, Mr. Holt Mackenzie, Mr. Jellicoe, Dr. Trueman, Mr. Grove, Mr. Venables, the Chairman, and Dr. Guy bore the chief part, and it was adjourned to the next meeting.

HORTICULTURAL.—Jan. 18.—W. W. Salmon, Esq., in the chair.—The subjects of special exhibition on this occasion were, "hardy winter-flowering plants" (cut flowers), "English grapes," and the "best and most varied salad." The only set of hardy winter flowers exhibited (besides one from the Society's garden) came from the Hon. W. F. Strangways's place in Dorsetshire; and mild as the season has everywhere been, we think the following names of plants which it contained will be read with interest. Foremost among them were

the Mexican *Fuschia cordata*, beautifully coloured; the New Zealand *Pittosporum Tobira*, the Japan *Epimedium macranthum*, *Pernettya mucronata*, *Yuccas* still in flower, *Edvardia macrophylla*, *Symphytum officinale*; *Hellebores*, *Primroses*, *Anemones*, *Hydrangeas*, *Hycinths*, *Laurustinus*, *Salvia fulgens*, *Epacris grandiflora*, *Rhododendron nobleanum*, *Mesembryanthemums*, *Arbutuses*, the large trumpet-flowered *Brugmansia sanguinea*, the winter *Aconites*, *Crocuses*, and *Snowdrops*, from the large-blossomed *Galanthus plicatus*. The Banksian medal was awarded them.—The best grapes came from the Duke of Sutherland; to whom a Banksian medal was awarded for good bunches of Muscat of Alexandria, black Barbarossa, and the white Tokay, which Mr. Szamos, a Hungarian gentleman, well acquainted with Tokay, and present at the meeting, pronounced to be the true sort. The berries were plump, fresh, and beautiful, showing it to be a better keeper than the Muscat of Alexandria, which was shrivelled. A box of the last-named grape, for which a Certificate of Merit was awarded, was produced by Mrs. Oddie. The Duke of Bedford sent bunches of black Hamburgh, grown in 1852, and a small bunch, this year's produce, quite ripe and well coloured, from vines which were started, we believe, in September last.—Two excellent salads, quite equal to anything that could be obtained in the Paris market, were furnished—one by the Duke of Sutherland, and the other by Earl Stanhope. The first had blanched chicory, Batavian and other endive, watercresses, white and red turnip radishes, Wood's early frame mustard and cress, American cress, Normandy cress (a large-leaved kind, different from that usually so named), corn salad, a brace of Sion House cucumbers, Malta and Hammersmith cabbage lettuces, beet, burnet, chervil, and celery. Earl Stanhope sent beet, celery, radishes, corn salad, curled and Batavian endive, mustard and cress, American cress, blanched chicory, watercresses, tarragon, winter onions, burnet, and chervil. These two salads were very nearly equal in merit; and, therefore, the first prize (a Banksian medal) was awarded to the Earl, and the second (a Certificate of Merit) to the Duke.—A new Dendrobe was contributed by Mr. Venn. Its flowers were white, like orange blossom, and almost as sweet scented.—Of other plants, Messrs. Veitch sent the new Neigherry Hill *Sonchella orbicularis*, grown in less heat, and therefore better coloured than the specimen previously shown from the Society's garden; and managed in this way, it is a very ornamental plant.—A fine specimen of the Brazilian *Amaryllis* (*Hippeastrum*) *calica* was communicated by Mr. F. Newdigate, for which a certificate was awarded.—From the garden of the Society came plants of the *Sclago distans*, a most useful winter flower; *Echeveria retusa*, a capital winter-flowering hardy greenhouse succulent, which also makes a good window plant. The cut flowers included *Jasminum nudiflorum*, one of the gayest hardy shrubs we have at this season; *Lonicera fragrantissima*, a pretty evergreen bush, and sweet-scented; *Helleborus olympicus* and *odorus*, which are flowering now, while the common Christmas rose is past; and a variety of *Laurustinus* called *stricta*, which, in addition to blossoms, had also a crop of beautiful blue fruit; common single red Camellia, which grows and flowers every year well behind a north wall in the garden. The garden also contributed a large and varied salad, consisting of *Chicoree fine d'Été* and *sauvage améliorée*, *Scarole à fleur blanche*, lettuce, *mâche d'Italie*, very succulent and tender, and certainly the best of all the corn salads; *mâche ronde*, *Picridium*, *celéri court hâtif* and *gros violet* de Tours, early white winter radish, Castelnaudary beet, not very good; Sutton's fine dark red beet, anything but "fine"; Atkins's crimson-red beet, a poor sort; mustard and cress, Normandy cress, American cress, burnet, French sorrel, common garden sorrel, broad-leaved sorrel, and *Oseille de Belleville*, which is the best of all the sorrels, being more fleshy, and not near so coarse as the common garden kinds; chervil, and Deptford onion, making in all twenty-four varieties belonging to sixteen species.

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LINNEAN.—Jan. 18.—R. Brown, Esq., in the chair.—The Rev. C. Babington and J. Clarke, Esq., were elected Fellows.—A paper was read by Mr. Yarrell 'On the Habits and Structure of the Great Bustard (*Otis laevis*). This bird, which was formerly very plentiful in Great Britain, is now very scarce. Two instances had come to the author's notice of its having been recently found in England,—one seen by Mr. Waterhouse on Salisbury Plain, and a specimen shot by Dr. Plomley at Romsey Marsh. He read notes on the habits of the bird from several correspondents. Mr. Nicholson had seen this bird in Spain, near Seville. The males arrive in flocks from seven to fifty in number in February,—the females singly in April. In May the male birds retire again; the young are hatched in June,—and all disappear in July. They are good eating. He had shot one weighing twenty-eight pounds. Two had been seen in the neighbourhood of Salisbury in 1801. One was taken after having attacked a house. It lived many years afterwards in confinement. It ate sparrows and mice, as well as vegetable food. At the beginning of the present century, Mr. Nash says that he had seen as many as nine flocks of Bustards in a single day, near Thetford, in Norfolk. The author alluded to the fact, that Dr. Douglass had described the male of this bird as possessing a gular pouch, in which it carries water. It was supposed to carry the water about with it to supply its need in the arid districts in which it is found,—and also as a means of defence. A preparation of the throat of a male bird which had died at the Zoological Gardens was exhibited, in which no gular pouch could be detected. Other anatomists had also looked for this pouch in vain. The author in his work on 'British Birds' had followed Dr. Douglass,—but he was now convinced that the description must have applied to some other bird.—Mr. Gould exhibited a drawing of the Australian type of the genus *Otis*, and stated that he had failed to discover in that bird any pouch such as had been described. The Australian species was excellent eating, and in great abundance,—and he and his party had subsisted principally on them for several months.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Jan. 11.—Dr. Gray, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. Waterhouse described a new species of Rodent from South America, remarkable for having a very short tail and strong fore-feet—furnished with large and nearly straight claws. It was from the Province of Mendoza; having recently been sent by Mr. Bridges—after whom it was named by Mr. Waterhouse—*Hesperomys Bridgesii*.—M. Deshayes described thirty-seven new species of shells from the collection of Mr. Cumming, including several very interesting types.—Dr. Gray described a new Salamander, from California, under the name of *Ambystoma Californiense*,—and a gigantic Tortoise from the Galapagos, under the name of *Testudo platycephalus*. The latter species is established on a skull only.

Jan. 25.—Dr. Gray, V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary read a letter from Mr. L. Fraser, H.M. Vice-Consul at Whidah, written from Clarence, Fernando Po, and addressed to Mr. Cumming. It contained some notice of the existence of a large Quadrumanous animal in the interior, called by the natives Tap-par-po-har, which is supposed by them to be a Chimpanzee, but which is considered by Mr. Fraser to be most probably a *Cynocephalus*. Mr. Fraser has not yet succeeded in obtaining a specimen. He describes two new birds, obtained in June and July last at Fernando Po, under the names of *Bubo poensis*, and *Buceros poensis*.—M. Deshayes read a paper on the animals of Camostrea, Clementia, and Glauconome; and in the course of it, he took occasion to describe fourteen new species of the genus *Mactra* and two of *Clementia*.—Dr. Gray read a paper on the division of *Stenobranche gastropodous Mollusca*,—in which he made use of the character afforded by the mouth, which he considers to establish the distinction of two great groups, in a much more natural manner than the presence or absence of a syphon in the mantle, and to be more consistent with the habits of the animals, and much less liable to exceptions. The character

on which Dr. Gray chiefly relies, is, the form, disposition, and number of the teeth on the lingual membrane.—M. Deshayes made some observations upon the manner in which the animals of these groups take their prey.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Jan. 24.—*Anniversary Meeting.*—J. O. Westwood, Esq., President, in the chair.—The ballot for four new Members of the Council showed that E. Newman, W. W. Saunders, A. F. Sheppard and S. Waring, Esqs., were elected in the room of F. Smith, H. T. Stainton, J. J. Weir, and W. Yarrell, Esqs.; and the following were elected to the respective offices for the ensuing year,—Edward Newman, Esq., President; S. Stevens, Esq., Treasurer; and J. W. Douglas and W. Wing, Esqs., Joint Secretaries.—The President announced, that the Council had received three Essays in competition for the prize of 5*l.* offered by the Society for the best Essay 'On the Duration of Life in the Males, Queen, and Workers of the Honey-Bee,'—the determination of which was of great practical importance to the bee-keeper,—and that they had awarded the prize to a paper which proved to be by Mr. Desborough, of Stamford.

MICROSCOPICAL.—Jan. 26.—G. Jackson, Esq., in the chair.—A paper was read from the Rev. W. Smith, 'On the Stellate Bodies called Sporangia found in some Fresh-water Algae.'—The author doubted if these bodies, which he proposed to call Asteridia, could be regarded as Sporangia. Among other reasons which led him to doubt these being true sporangia were, the absence of conjugation between the cells in which they are formed, and the presence with them of large masses of endochrome, which was always absorbed during the development of the sporangia. In opposition to the view of Mr. Shadbolt, who had first described them, Mr. Smith regarded them rather as parasites than as any natural product of the plant. He had seen similar bodies in *Dermidice*; and Mr. West exhibited two drawings in which they were represented as occurring in *Achnanthes longipes* and *Pleurosigma Balticum*. At the close of the paper Mr. Shadbolt said, that he questioned whether the bodies described by Mr. Smith were the same as he saw. He never found but one of the bodies which he had described in a single cell, and they always occurred in cells after conjugation. They passed through precisely the same changes as those which had been observed in the Zoospores.—A paper was then read by Prof. Quekett 'On the Occurrence of a Fungus and Crystals in the Heart of an Oak Tree.'—The Professor stated, that whilst dining with a picnic party under the King Oak in Marlborough Forest, a bough suddenly gave way and fell to the ground. No indications of decay were observed on the outside of the fallen branch,—but in the centre the wood was damper than usual. On examining the wood under the microscope, the woody fibres were found to be softer and more easily separable than usual; and in gaps which had been formed between the fibres were found the mycelium and spores of a minute fungus, the species of which the author could not make out. The fungus fibres were accompanied by prismatic and tubular crystals of an irregular form—probably of some salt of lime. The fungus was of a different character to that which attacked timber, constituting dry rot. No external wound was observed to account for the way in which the spores of the fungus had obtained access to the tree.

ETHNOLOGICAL.—Jan. 12.—Sir B. C. Brodie, President, in the chair.—The Rev. W. Arthur, Messrs. Hamilton and Robinson and Dr. Wagstaffe were elected Fellows.—'Observations on some of the Aboriginal Tribes of New Holland,' by Dr. T. H. R. Thomson, R.N.—The author commenced by stating, that the experience and observation of all travellers who have visited the colonies of New Holland confirm the common opinion, that the aboriginal races of this large territory are gradually disappearing from the face of the globe, and steadily giving way before the advance of the white man. He says,—"Of many tribes which not sixty years ago existed in the neighbourhood of Sydney (each numbering from

two hundred upwards), several have already entirely disappeared,—as, the Botany Bay tribe, the Five Islands tribe; and of others only a trace exists in the debauched, energy-stricken beings to be seen occasionally wandering about the streets of the metropolis of New South Wales." On this account, every fact or particular relating to these tribes that may throw light on their moral and physical characteristics, and their individual or moral habits, cannot fail to prove interesting to ethnologists, and valuable as a record of a peculiar race probably soon to become extinct. Dr. Thomson considers, that the slight differences that do exist amongst the numerous tribes scattered over this extensive region are such as may be easily accounted for by the climate and the supply of food of the district in which each tribe is to be found. He examined natives of several parts of New Holland, but he has been unable to discover anything in their social history which can lead him to any other conclusion than that they must have had one common origin. Dr. Thomson's paper included observations made on most of the tribes now inhabiting the neighbourhood of the Castle-reagh and Lochland branches of the Macquarie river. The Castle-reagh tribe number about 100,—the Mole tribe, or Darling River blacks, from 170 to 200,—the Bogan blacks about 100. All these have similar physical characters to those tribes inhabiting the coast near Sydney,—of which the Broken Bay and Hunter River tribes may be considered as the types. They are of the middle height, with spare body, the hands and feet of good proportion, arms and legs long, particularly the latter. Head inclined to round rather than to oval, forehead somewhat broad but low, cheek-bones rather high, eyes sunken, eye-brows arched, whiskers very small in quantity,—occasionally, however, there is a good deal of beard on the chin, which is rounded and not very prognathous; the lips are prominent and thick, especially the upper one, the mouth is expressive of determination; the skin is dark brown, approaching to black, and usually very smooth; the hair is inclined to be long, soft and silky,—it is usually quite glossy, but always curly. The women whilst young are well proportioned; the hands and feet of many of them are very small. Their manners and speech are quick, lively and animated; they are easily excitable, and very revengeful. All the tribes have distinct marks on the breast, back, shoulders and arms, produced by longitudinal or transverse gashes. The King-bar tribe always have these markings transversely. They all speak one language, and have the same characteristics.—Dr. Thomson gave a minutely detailed account of the intellectual and moral faculties and habits of these tribes, of their domestic and social manners, customs and practices; he also gave the proportions of some Australian crania, both male and female;—concluding his paper by stating, that there now remains little doubt that many of the aborigines of New Holland are anthropophagous.—An animated discussion followed the reading of Dr. Thomson's paper.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Jan. 18.—J. M. Rendel, Esq., President, in the chair.—The evening was entirely devoted to the discussion of Mr. Burt's paper 'On the Preservation of Timber.'—and, the members were requested to aid Mr. Burt in some further experiments which he had undertaken on the subject, and to communicate to the Institution all information which could elucidate the various points treated of in the paper, or alluded to in the discussion.

Jan. 25.—J. M. Rendel, Esq., President, in the chair.—The discussion 'On the Preservation of Timber' was renewed.—The President directed attention to the Dublin Exhibition, and Mr. Roney (the Secretary) stated that the undertaking was progressing most favourably. The original size of the building would be nearly doubled; and to meet the additional outlay Mr. Dargan had increased his donation from 20,000*l.* to 50,000*l.* It was believed that the department of machinery in motion would be quite as interesting and attractive as that in the Great Exhibition of 1851, in London. The Society of Arts had determined that their East Indian Exhibition and all the influence of their

din,—who had also been for years a contributor to the periodical literature of his art.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

MUSICAL WINTER EVENINGS.—Willis's Rooms.—On SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, at half-past 8, will be performed MOZART'S QUARTET in D, Schubert's Trio in E flat, Mendelssohn's Quintet in A, and Beethoven's Sonata, with the Funeral March, Homage to the Departed Duke. Executants—Mollie, Mellon, Goffrie, Webb, and Piatti. Pianist, Halle, who will arrive in London for this concert expressly. The remaining concerts will be held on Thursdays. A few sofas, with reserved places for five persons, are to be obtained on application to the Director. Subscription for the four evenings, One Guinea; Single Tickets, 7s. For Prospectuses and particulars, apply to Gramer & Co., Regent Street. Subscribers' Tickets will be sent with the Programme. J. ELLIS, Director.

PRINCESS'S.—Mr. Douglas Jerrold's new drama, produced on Friday week at Windsor Castle, was repeated at this theatre on Saturday to a crowded house. It is, as we have already stated, entitled 'St. Cupid; or, Dorothy's Fortune.' The texture of the work is in accordance with the quaint nomination,—and "the manners" are of an antique turn. We are carried back to 1715; when the country was agitated by the risings in favour of the Pretender—and Government agents and spies were on the alert to detect treason in unexpected quarters.

The first scene introduces us to a Mr. Under-Secretary Zero (Mr. J. Vining) and his nephew Sir Valentine May (Mr. Walter Lacy), who are examining a pack of letters intercepted at the post-office:—the gouty and grey-headed uncle sagaciously scenting treason in the most familiar phrases, and converting nearly every noun-substantive in the correspondence into a political symbol. Of this hit the audience made—as no doubt the author intended they should—a ready modern application; and an extract taken from it may afford at once a specimen of the point which runs unflagging throughout the dialogue of the piece.—

Re-enter Trundle.

Trundle. My master will be here, Sir Valentine; but sends me key that,—

Fal. Good. (Takes key. Exit Trundle.) As under-secretary's secretary 'tis little enough I do: and luckily my uncle is such a glutton at official fare, he hardly leaves me the crumbs. (Opens box.) Why, what a batch is here!

Hawke. These the original letters—these the copies we have taken.

Fal. The true rebels, and their speaking portraits. Undone told! Pandora's box without hope of clergy.

Hawke. Some of 'em droll, Sir Valentine; saving your reverence, devilish droll.

Fal. Well, that government is still the safest that makes treason laughable.

Hawke. Oh, Sir Valentine, we all laugh at the rising; but like royal subjects. Still, there's matter in these letters.

Fal. Mr. Hawke, you are, I believe, the chief hand at this nice surgery?

Hawke. Surgery, Sir Valentine?

Fal. You best can operate on written men, for such are men's letters? Best can open the locked lips of wax—best set out the heart of the secret—the brain of the purpose, and that so tenderly, the patient dealt upon dreams not of the operation, until a short way off he sees the hurdle and the axe? Eh, good Hawke?

Fal. Well, what's the worst treason?

Fal. (Turning over letters.) I see none—scarcely none.

Fal. Ha, Val, you've no eye for a plot—no nose. Once you like yourself.

Fal. And now you'd see Guy Fawkes's tinder in a dowry's muff box; and smell his matches in a spinster's hairpins.

Fal. And why not? But the treason there awaits us.

Fal. (Reads.) "From Alexander Macchistie of the Cambrige to Duncan Haggis, of the Golden Mull, tobacco-smoke, Little Britain."

Fal. Scot to Scot. Go on.

Fal. (Reads.) "Ye shall learn by these, Duncan, that the snuffs are no yet prepared for the London market. They yet need a little scorching to tak' the noses o' the Londoners."

Fal. Noses of the Southrons! Him!

Fal. (Reads.) "Am glad to ken ye're getting on so merrily. Fergus tells me your Highlander looks bonny in his new paint."

Fal. Highlander! New paint! Him!

Fal. (Reads.) "And for the glory of pair Scotland, I have soon to hear of a thousand mair in the streets of London."

Fal. Now Sir Valentine May, for a lesson in state craft.

Fal. That is really in that letter?

Fal. Why, Scotch snuff in Edinburgh, and wooden Highlanders mousting guard at the doors of snuff-shops in London.

Zero. And is that all? Well, another.

Fal. (Reads.) "John Ketts, Irongate, to Simon Quick, toyman, Covent Garden. Our advices inform us that the ship will sail next week with your order. One thousand common dolls; with fifty samples, that work their eyes and mouths. With these, two hundred rocking-horses."

Zero. Well?

Fal. Well?

Zero. And you can't see through this? Listen and learn. The undried snuff is troops preparing for the Pretender. The Highlanders in London, a swarm of kilts with the Stuart.

Fal. And the thousand common dolls, sir?

Zero. Foreign troops.

Fal. And the dolls with eyes and mouths?

Zero. The officers to command them.

Fal. And the rocking-horses?

Zero. Cavalry, sir; cavalry, as I'm a statesman.

Fal. Wonderful! (Aside.) Daylight's wasted upon a man who can see so much better in the dark. Eh? (Taking a letter.) Surely a woman's hand?

Zero. No doubt. To fan treason into full blaze, always fan with a petticoat. Go on.

Fal. (Reading.) "To Belinda Icebrook."

Zero (Aside).—Icebrook? At last—at last! Icebrook? from whom?

Fal. Dorothy—Dorothy—Budd.

Zero. Go on.

Fal. Sir, it is a woman's letter.

Zero. Sir, treason is of no sex. The axe—an it could speak—could tell you that.

Fal. And when I am worthy of the headsman's trade, then I may stoop to this.

Zero. A nice chivalry, perhaps: but all too fine for me to see it. (Reads.) "This greeting in the name of St. Cupid."

Fal. St. Cupid! Ha, ha! Since Cupid has so many of his old friends in the Calendar, 'tis right, at last, he's canonized himself. St. Cupid!

Zero. (Reads.) "Sweet Belinda, fortune has found her eyes, for at last she has found me. And how? Guess till your hair grow grey, you'll never know."

Fal. And with such a prospect she'll never try.

Zero. (Reads.) "I'm to have a husband in a week—a diamond of a man dropt from the clouds."

Fal. Only one? Why not a shower?

Zero. (Reads.) "He who would pluck a violet, must stoop for it—which means, I'm told, that my lover humbles himself to make me my lady. Will you have any more? Well then, I'm to be grandmother to a duke, to die at four-score, and be buried in silver gilt and silk velvet."

Fal. Very handsome to the worms.

Zero. (Reads.) "All this, dear Belinda, a gipsy's told me for sixpence, and a battered thimble. These, wonder at, and bless your Dorothy's fortune."

Fal. And is that all?

Zero. Here's a postscript. (Reads.) "I'd nigh forgot my pin-money. Five hundred a-year—my own coach—and maid, an army of footmen. Bravo, St. Cupid! Well, what's that?"

Fal. That? Why, petticoat-idleness. Gipsy jargon canted to a silly girl who prattles the folly to her companion.

Entertaining no doubt of the political cabala couched in the pretended weird prophecy, Zero despatches a spy to "the Lilacs;" while his nephew on his part determines to visit the spot incog. in the hope of meeting with the lady whose name and epistolary style have strangely excited his more romantic curiosity. Dorothy Budd (Mrs. C. Kean) is the daughter of Dr. Budd, schoolmaster (Mr. Harley),—who, with their servant, Juno (Mrs. W. Lacy) compose a triad of innocence, simplicity and ignorance, and furnish materials for some comic dialogue blended of those three elements. They are in anxious expectation of an answer to an advertisement for an Usher, offering the munificent salary of ten pounds a year, "washing not included," for any candidate acquainted with Greek, Latin, Hebrew, conic sections, dancing, music, the broadsword exercise, &c. &c. Struck by Dorothy's beauty, Valentine imposes himself on this credulous household for the person in question,—and is readily engaged. Ensign Bellefleur, cousin to Dorothy, and secretly an adherent of the Pretender, is staying with the Budd family on leave of absence from his regiment,—and of course is in love with the heroine. Early penetrating his political secret, Sir Valentine would generously save him from the peril which he knows to be near,—and by playing some Jacobite airs on a violin seeks to warn him of his danger. He is, however, misunderstood, and suspected by Bellefleur for a spy. The latter accordingly picks a quarrel with him,—and is worsted in the broadsword exercise. The gipsy named in the letter becomes here an agent in the scene. Queen Bee (Mr. Wright) is employed by Sir Valentine to warn Bellefleur of his peril,—but instead of doing this, she leads Dorothy, by means of the directions which she had received from Sir Valentine, to suspect himself. The poor girl—whose heart is not untouched by Valentine's at-

tractions—has her doubts confirmed by finding one of the Pretender's proclamations,—and these doubts are allayed only by Sir Valentine pretending to be himself the party in peril. Dorothy, on this, betrays her love through her fears on his account. Part of this scene is overheard by Zero, who has followed his spy to the premises,—and who, deceived as to his nephew's intentions, congratulates him on the skill with which he has at length learned to act a political part. This assumption Sir Valentine humours,—until, by means of Queen Bee, the Ensign is got safe away; after which, he naturally finds—what he had suspected before—that he is in love himself.—So, Dorothy, though not exactly made a Duchess, is promoted to be the lady of a Baronet,—nearly as good a thing in her estimation; and the gipsy's prophecy appears to receive a sort of fulfilment.—"Isn't that a husband for sixpence and an old thimble?" she says herself. "But I always were too cheap."

It will easily be perceived that in a plot of this kind, though there may be room for the delineation of character and for abundance of repartee,—there is not much opportunity for action, situation, or surprise. Progress, development, climax—properly, there is none of these; but the whole fits together with a neatness and symmetry which supply their place, and yield a peculiar charm of their own. Everything tells,—and therefore nothing seems wanting. Mr. Jerrold has nowhere of late been so peculiarly happy. To the brilliancy of the writing and the felicity of the characterization too much praise can scarcely be given,—and a great secret of the charm in this piece is, that the wit, always making its meaning clear, is yet never overdone. The quaint tone that runs through the whole—conception and dialogue—is another.

The success of the play was secured by the admirable manner in which it was acted. To the first rank of commendation Mrs. C. Kean and Mrs. W. Lacy are entitled. Both, like true artists, gave portraits so perfect that they might be mistaken for nature;—they seemed to contend who should be most naïve, most apparently artless, most charmingly simple, or most "silly-sooth,"—the one in the innocence of her heart, the other in the ignorance of her mind. Mr. Wright as the eccentric sibyl shows that he can be humorous without exaggeration, and a comedian without caricature. Nothing could be more easy, and at the same time more effective, than the carefully chaste and pure style in which he performed this nicely-shaded, well-balanced, and cleverly-written part. Mr. Harley's pedant was marvellously true; but with—of course, in Mr. Harley's case—a degree of mannerism,—which, indeed, the nature of the part had a tendency to encourage. Mr. Walter Lacy had also a character peculiarly well suited to his specific talents; and Mr. Vining was especially neat in his impersonation of the shrewd, middle-aged, gouty, good-tempered politician, who did his duty to his country and sustained defeat in it with equal sang froid.—We accept this play as a genuine specimen of comic writing; and there are many who will even like it the better for its being deficient in that constructive and stage skill which distinguishes the modern playwright of the French school,—but for which Mr. Jerrold in his dramas has rarely been remarkable.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—This column—and not the one devoted to criticism—is the place in which we shall announce the publication of a third volume of 'Music and Friends,' by Mr. Gardiner, of Leicester. The work will always possess a value (after its kind) to those who study art and manners in conjunction. They will recognize something peculiar, individual, and amiable in the picture of a musical amateur making the most of the imperfect means of culture which the provinces of England afforded some seventy years ago,—with a courageous justice of instinct (if not taste) fixing upon music in advance of its time, and doing his utmost to extend the knowledge of, and the love for it.—Such was Mr. Gardiner's position with regard to Beethoven:—mistaken as were the workings of his enthusiasm and the form of his homage. But any complete life of Germany's greatest instrumental composer must include the

fact, here asserted, that when the Leicester amateur had completed his *pasticcio Oratorio* of 'Judah,' which included large selections, adaptations (and for aught we know, alterations) of Beethoven's music, Beethoven was applied to in all simplicity by the concocter of this work to write for it an Overture in the key of D minor, with the offer of an *honorarium* of a hundred guineas.—Lady Echlin's tender to Richardson of the improved and cheerful close which she had written to 'Clarissa' was hardly more innocently vain in its way (though less generous) than this proposition,—to which Mr. Gardiner proceeds to say no answer was returned. It may also live in musical history, that at the *Beethoven-Fest* at Bonn (which took place not in the year 1848, as stated by Mr. Gardiner, but in 1845), the patriarch among English amateurs was among the first of the strangers invited to sign the document which recorded the history of the composer's statue and the ceremonies of its inauguration.

On Monday next, Mr. Mitchell commences his season of French plays. According to advertisement, this will begin with Mdlle. Lambert and M. Ravel, continue with Mdlle. Luther, proceed with Mdlle. Page, M. Lafont, and M. Bouffé (if the state of the last gentleman's health shall permit)—these "stars" to give place in their turn to Mdlle. Madeline Brohan and M. Regnier. The series of entertainments will be closed by Mdlle. Rachel, playing 'Diane,'—and, we suppose, also, 'Louise de Lignerolles' and 'Lady Tartuffe.' During the Easter holidays, moreover, M. Robert Houdin will appear for the last time,—since it is announced that he is about to leave the world of Sorcery. His craft, in truth, is brought into disrepute by English nobility and gentry with their crystal balls (price four guineas) and their seers who see nothing,—and by American rapping-women, who for a guinea pretend to evoke everybody's ancestors, yet cannot manage to be correct even as regards the eyes and inches of a simple aunt! But this is leading us away from Mr. Mitchell,—with regard to whose season it need only further be said, that with him advertisement implies fulfilment.

We were wise, it appears, in treating the French theatrical revolution lightly. Hardly had our last week's paragraphs appeared, ere we read in the *Presse* that the banishment of the *claqueurs* had been found to make the theatres so dull—that after a week's silence, stagnation, and distress among the actors, they have been taken into grace again, and their platoons are again fired off at the old times and in the old places.

Rumours are again stirring which mention a coalition betwixt Messrs. Gye and Mitchell for the purpose of relieving Mr. Lumley from the management of *Her Majesty's Theatre*.—Other reports, quite as credible, declare, that so far from this being the case, Mr. Lumley has engaged an enormous *corps de ballet*.—Thirdly, some assert that Mdlle. Wagner has written declaring that she dare not sing in London, and is not, therefore, coming.—Very probably, none of this gossip may prove to be correct.

It must suffice us to mention in a line, that 'Elijah' has been twice given by the *Sacred Harmonical Society* with a new cast;—including Madame Fiorentini, Miss Deakin, Miss Huddart, and Mr. Weiss.—We hear good things concerning the voice of a Miss Doria, who appeared at Mr. *Allcroft's* annual concert,—held on Monday last.

Among the artists intending to pass the season in London are, Signor Marchesi and Madame Marchesi Graumann,—the latter (as may be divined) the well-known German *mezzo-soprano*.

The notice that Mr. *Lucas* will recommence his *Musical Evenings* in February, and the knowledge that Herr *Pauer* will shortly give some chamber concerts, in addition to those of Mr. W. S. Bennett and Mr. *Ella*, remind us more forcibly than ever of the strange conditions on which we Londoners are helped to music. These entertainments and others which we have already mentioned are fixed to end about Easter,—hence, during the months of February and March amateurs must work hard at Quartets, Pianoforte Sonatas, &c. If there be any who would like to

grow fat to the round of a string

(to employ the taunt of *Bacchus* in the old Duett) during the months of November, December, and January, their comfort and satisfaction are utterly disregarded,—since the pause in chamber-music during those three months has this winter been unbroken. It seems in contradiction to common sense that a particular sort of music should, like house-lamb or asparagus, be producible only at a certain season,—and we cannot but wish, therefore, that some effort might be made to vary an arrangement the result of which must be hurry, crowding, rivalry, and herein loss of pleasure and of progress.

M. Auber, who has been appointed head of the Imperial Chapel in Paris, and Director of Music to Napoleon the Third, is to furnish a wedding *Cantata* for the ceremony about to be held in *Notre Dame*.

The sensation just excited in Dresden by the appearance in Herr Devrient's kingdom of another first-class German actor, Herr Davison, is described in the foreign newspapers to have been extraordinary. From every side, indeed, we have testimony that the drama in Germany is flourishing more satisfactorily than it was some years since.

The *Journal des Débats* states that Madame Goldschmidt has promised to sing for the charities of Stockholm, at two Oratorios to be given there in the Holy Week:—the works selected being, 'St. Paul' and 'The Messiah.'

Since our announcement of the success of MM. Scribe and Auber's 'Marco Spada,' and of Mdlle. Duprez at the *Opéra Comique*, we have seen the *feuilleton* of M. Berlioz,—the sum and substance of which, as regards the music, our readers will be glad to read.—

The indomitable youth of M. Auber [writes M. Berlioz] has still given itself out in his new score. Everywhere we have a life and spirit, an incredible freshness of idea, an originality at times almost rash, and an instrumental colour which has never shone with a brighter lustre in all our author's former works.

—If the above may be taken without any percentage, we may look in 'Marco Spada' for another 'Domino Noir,'—and seeing that M. Bataille is the hero, the management of our *Royal Italian Opera* might do worse than inquire how far such a work would be available for Signor Ronconi.—A new tenor, M. Puget, of provincial renown, is about to make his appearance at the *Opéra Comique*.—A new one-act trifle, 'Le Miroir,' by M. Gastinel, has just been produced at the same most productive of musical theatres.

The following is from a Correspondent.—"Mrs. Fanny Kemble has just concluded a series of four Shakspearian Readings before the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. The plays selected were, 'Antony and Cleopatra,' 'Twelfth Night,' 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' and 'Hamlet.' It is recorded that in such abhorrence were play-going and play-actors formerly held in Leeds, that David Garrick was there once pursued over the old bridge, hooted, and nearly stoned to death by the pious populace. Yet in this same town, and in an age when the legitimate drama is said to droop and languish for lack of popular favour, the niece of Mrs. Siddons has by the display of her dramatic powers won the hearts of all—not excluding many belonging to the Society of Friends, and others who feel scruples of conscience about theatrical amusements. The interest excited by Mrs. Kemble's performances is a striking proof that, whatever may be the causes of the decline of the Drama, it is not attributable to any natural inaptitude on the part of the modern public to appreciate and enjoy dramatic representation. Mrs. Kemble was requested to prolong her stay for the purpose of giving an additional reading,—but was unable to comply. She promised, however, another visit, if possible, before her departure for America. In order to afford the working classes an opportunity of enjoying the same luxury as others, she obliged the Rational Recreation Society by devoting an extra night to the reading of 'The Merchant of Venice,' on condition that they would grant free admission to all."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—C. W. D.—Dr. D.—T. B.—J. T.—received.

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 at noon precisely, pursuant to the provisions of the Society's Deed
 of Settlement, for the purpose of receiving the Auditor's Annual
 Report of the Accounts of the Society up to 31st December, 1852,
 to elect two Directors in the room of John Foster, Esq., and the
 Hon. the Vice-Chancellor, Sir James Parker, both deceased; and
 for general purposes.

The Director to be chosen in the room of John Foster, Esq.,
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